45-1945

General

Reader Response to Town Meeting

Cleveland, Ohio. News . . . . . .

Discussion of Postwar Employment of Negroes Applauded

IN the News Saturday Town Meeting last week Charles J. Stilwell, president of The Warner & Swasey Co., and B. D. Zevin, president of the World Publishing Co., presented their views on the employment of Negroes in postwar industry.

The discussion prompted a number of letters from News readers. Following are some comments from their letters:

8-16-45

Illuminating Discussion

To the Editor of the News—Sir: The first half of my life I lived in Irvin S. Cobb's town of Paducah, Ky., where I was "bawn and raised" a "Johnnie Reb," as the Northerners used to call us. The last half I have spent among Cleveland people.

The articles in the News of August 11 by Mr. B. D. Zevin and Mr. Charles Stilwell . . . were the most convincing, intelligent and superior statements I have ever read on any phase of the Negro question.

They could be studied with much benefit by all Southern people who still harbor the slightest biased feeling on this matter.

Mr. Zevin's paragraph defending the use of 100% of our employable population was superb, and I heartily wish that he would write a series of articles, or broadcast on the radio, conveying the enlightening principles of which he must be capable of expressing so understandingly; it would make for better feeling between people who still indulge in name-calling over this 85-year-old question that should be allowed to rest in peace.

After the Spanish-American War, and two World Wars that have been fought since the Civil War, we should be fairly united in our national problems, and let those ancient sleeping dogs lie quietly in their graves. We have enough to attend to right now without bringing their bones to light to no purpose.

Mr. Zevin's ably expressed ideas on these subjects would make valuable and constructive reading for us all. H. W. H., Lakewood.

• • •

Time for Gratitude

. . . I believe the industrial work done by Negroes during our present war has well earned the Negro a place in industry. He should by all means be allowed to keep it.

It is time for American industry to show some gratitude toward the Negro, whose sons have fought and died to preserve a democracy which they never had a chance to fully enjoy.

Unbiased industrial opportunities for Negroes will be a big and forward step toward curbing racial tension. All Negroes are not industrial workers but those that are should be given an equal opportunity.

America will never be a complete democracy as long as color and creed is placed before capability.

OLIVIA BAKER,
8000 Keyes Ave.

• • •

Judge by Performance

. . . Inevitably Mr. Stilwell's presentation was more objective than Mr. Zevin's since the latter, as an Urban League director, is personally interested in securing jobs for Negroes.

Perhaps the highlight of the discussion was Mr. Stilwell's assertion that there has been "entirely too much agitation on the subject"—a point with which all disinterested persons will agree.

Much of our citizenry has fallen prey to propaganda either in behalf of themselves as groups or in behalf of some other group. The evils of the pressure group or bloc can become a force quite as destructive both to our form of government and our way of life as any foreign "isms." In fact, it is an alien importation.

Natural processes of evolution work out best in the long run and the one good point made by Mr. Zevin was that the Negro worker must compete on the basis of merit as a worker—"must be prepared to accept judgment on the record of performance."

A supposedly responsible person once publicly made the amazing statement that the Negro would get his chance in the world of art not despite his being a Negro, but because of it. In other words, he admitted that special consideration would replace honest judgment. Such procedure neither is helpful to the Negro himself nor to his relationship with the rest of mankind.

ELEANOR N. CAPPELLER

• • •

Prejudice Declines

. . . Many Negroes have entered professions, while countless others have held responsible positions for a good many years.

In recent years there has been a reduction in unreasoning prejudices and racial barriers in our economic life which have allowed our Negroes and persons of all races an equal opportunity to fill all manner of important positions in our industrial and business life.

Surely, all honorably discharged veterans, including Negroes, deserve first consideration for industrial employment.

It is my unbiased opinion that a worker's ability and personal conduct should be taken into account rather than his or her race, color or creed. RALPH E. THAYER,
14227 Ardenall Ave.,
East Cleveland.

• • •

. . . My sincere hope is that God has more like Mr. B. D. Zevin in American industry . . . Opportunities is all the American Negro wants, not consideration. The Negro should have had consideration years before the war.

I. GRAHAM.

8-16-45.

Calls for Deeds

. . . I have had the direct experience with industry that Negroes are not given the equal opportunity they deserve. I think one should be careful when hiring any employee but there should not be two strikes against him when he applies for a job because he is a Negro.

I think his application should be very thoroughly analyzed to find qualifications that will show the type of person he is, but not with prejudice.

I am a Negro accountant. I believe the American white man is the greatest man on earth in every respect but one.

The American white man has built this great country through hard work and careful thinking. No nation possesses the culture, living standards or any of the fundamentals of a great nation that the United States owns. This nation was built from one rock called Plymouth Rock. The American white man has performed engineering feats before unheard.

If he has done all these things, I feel that his reactions and filibustering regarding the Negro is deliberate.

When strong industrialists begin to realize that they are no stronger than the weakest groups in the country, they won't pretend to find a place for the Negro but will give him one, and until then, as far as the masses of the Negroes are concerned, silence would be golden.

WILLIAM A. BROOKS JR.
10018 Parkgate Ave.

8-16-45.

It's Imperative

. . . Regarding the question, "Can the Negro worker do anything to preserve his wartime job gains?" the answer s definitely in the affirmative. It can be done by a continuation of the employment of the principles that have aided him thus far.

It is true that there have been some discrepancies, but for the most part, collectively the Negro has proven worthy of his chance to demonstrate his skill in war work. He has co-operated with his co-workers, respected and given the proper amount of subservience to his various employers and superiors, he has admitted his mistakes, readily rectified them, and has made a strenuous effort to avoid a recurrence of them. As a result of this, he has won the recognition, hearty commendation and admiration of his employers.

By the continuation of these practices he will become an inspiration to those who have either fallen from grace or have never attained that state. It will encourage them to utilize their potential energy by converting it in active, constructive, and co-operative energy. As a result the Negro will be a recognized credit to his race and to humanity at large.

In conclusion, I reiterate that not only is it possible for the Nego to preserve his wartime job gains, it is imperative as well.

LILLIAN ANDERSON BOYD,
8403 Quincy Ave.

8-16-45.

Developing Race

Throughout my 61 years residence in the United States, prior to which I never saw a Negro in person, I have watched with increasing interest their development as worthwhile citizens under favorable conditions.

World War II became their great opportunity to make the most of such talents as they possess. They do have talent and those who have enjoyed a fair education are the equals of their white neighbors.

JOSEPH GROSSMAN,
Guardian Building.

• • •

Give Them a Chance

. . . Yes, the Negro can preserve his wartime job gains. The only thing that is needed is to be given a chance.

The Negro should hold his job on the basis of merit as a worker and not because of his race. Mr. Stilwell stated that very few Negroes have the background and experience to work in mills and factories. That is because previously they weren't given a chance.

I agree with Mr. Zevin when he states that jobs should go with talent. There is a lot of talent among the Negroes. I say give the Negroes a chance and I'm sure that he can and will adapt himself to any job as well as any white.

MISS ROSE CONNER,
5102 Indianola Ave.

• • •

Two Reasons

. . . Aside from morality—regardless how some may want to convince themselves to justify the use of all sorts of technicalities to keep the Negro away from opportunity, all of us still pay for it in two ways: In the first place, if a Negro is out of work, it is the taxpayer who will still have to provide a living for him. In the second place, he has no chance to improve himself which is our social liability.

Therefore, the only sure way to make him a better social individual is to give him economic opportunity according to his ability. This means a job which will automatically improve his standard of living and thereby improve his sociability.

FRANK JUNKAR,
88 Highland Dr., Brecksville.

Out-Smarter Outsmarting

Laval tried hard to stay in Spain,
He can't trust anyone, that's plain.
He's back in France, his gamble lost,
The double-crosser double-crossed.

—By Stan Arnold

61e-1945

Job Crisis Confronts 1,500,000 Negro War Workers

The Worker New York, New York 8-19-45

By ABNER W. BERRY

The joy over peace will be mixed with anxiety for the 1,500,000 Negro war workers. There is a real danger, over which there is a growing concern, that these workers will be plunged backward a score of years with the coming of peace. This strange truth is due to the fact that the chief industrial gains made by Negroes were in those plants producing directly for the front.

In the Detroit automobile industry, where before the war a few thousand Negroes were hired, there are now 75,000 Negro workers. Shipbuilding, with a normal prewar Negro working force of 10,000, had 150,000 in the spring of this year. Similar figures could be given for aircraft, light metal and munitions.

In those industries where the Negro workers were established before the war in the "dirtier and harder" jobs, such as steel and mining, there has been some upgrading during the war. Cutbacks and the "bump and roll" will automatically throw these workers into the old status.

While the pressure of war and necessity itself was a factor in the gains made by the Negroes, the trade union movement took the initiative in many campaigns to get Negroes hired. FEPC machinery also aided in the process. With the coming of peace an important pressure has been removed; sections of the labor movement, faced with long lists of unemployed workers, may slacken their efforts in the interest of Negro job rights; reaction will try to throw overboard the FEPC as an "unnecessary" after the war at a time it is most necessary as a peace measure.

Even with the wartime manpower shortage there were industries which stoutly held to the anti-Negro bars. An outstanding offender in this field is local transport. An Urban League report reveals that responses from local transportation firms hiring 80 percent of the workers in that industry showed only eight Negroes in the work force. There is still the bar against Negroes in the railroad industry except in menial jobs. The communications industry has slightly over 1 percent Negro personnel.

But let's take a closer look at the local transport industry where there are some 229,000 workers employed. Except in a few cities like New York, Cleveland, Detroit and Chicago Negro workers can be counted on the fingers of one hand, as the Urban League report shows.

The company-inspired strike last summer in Philadelphia over the issue of hiring and upgrading Negroes on the Philadelphia transportation system is an indication of the problem faced.

And when the south is considered in this connection, where it is practically a settled policy that Negroes will not be so employed, then one can feel the necessity for added alertness and more forceful action to continue the gains made during the war. It is clear that the Negro gains were not even throughout industry and that there are some places where beginnings are yet to be made.

If special steps aren't taken to protect the Negro worker's job rights, where is he to go when layoffs come? The reactionaries want to use the Negroes to build up their labor reserve to lower the standards front along racial lines and thereby to weaken the peoples' fight fo ra progressive, democratic postwar progressive, democratic postwar program.

It is inconceivable that following the war the Negro workers will be forced back into working relationships which reflect the feudal backwardness of the plantation. It was just such a development following the last world war which resulted in racial frictions and large scale riots.

By keeping in mind the special problems of the Negro in all legislative and action programs for reconversion we can keep the winning team together to conquer the problems of the peace.

BUSINESS WEEK
(NEW YORK CITY)
SEP 15 1945

Layoff Headache

Demand of minority groups for proportional discharges in cutbacks and stewards' seniority issue add to woes of unions.

Union leaders, as well as employers, are developing headaches from ticklish questions of seniority for (1) veterans, (2) minority groups, and (3) in many cases, such lesser union officials as shop stewards who had a form of "superseniority" as protection while they engaged in union affairs.

• **Tinderbox**—The difficult interpretations and decisions by management regarding layoffs and hiring on a basis of seniority can lead very easily into a pileup of grievance reports, unfair labor practice charges before the National Labor Relations Board, court cases, and strikes.

On the other hand, union decisions on who shall have seniority, and who shall be denied its protection, can generate internal flareups and lead to dangerous schisms within unions at a time when leaders are attempting to bolster strength waning during layoffs.

• **Biggest Issue**—The issue of veterans' seniority is the most publicized, and the broadest, of the three seniority problems. Under the Selective Service Act, veterans who left permanent jobs for military service (an estimated 2,200,000) are entitled to their old jobs back, or jobs with like status, pay, and seniority. Moreover, they are entitled to protection in the restored job for one year.

Unions accept the provision for job restoration as just; they are not willing to concede, however, that a returned veteran should have superseniority which would entitle him to his old job regardless of whether another employee with greater seniority must be displaced to make room for him.

• **Agencies Divided**—Selective Service officials demand that returning veterans have this superseniority; National War Labor Board and arbitration decisions in a number of recent cases (BW—May 19'45,p100) have upheld union arguments that superseniority is unjust and a violation of a hard-and-fast rule which is basic in union organization.

Management, pulled between two extremes, has been inclined to leave to government agencies and courts the choice between conflicting interpretations.

In a recent case brought against the Sullivan Dry Dock & Repair Corp., Brooklyn (N. Y.) shipyard, a court verdict gave strong support to advocates of outright superseniority, as opposed to the current trend of arbitration decisions (BW—Sep.8'45,p100). The decision is being appealed.

• **Unions Cautious**—Unions, in handling veterans cases, have gingerly walked a tightrope, conscious that while they must fight to preserve the rights of their members, they must also carefully avoid any action which might create antiunion sentiment among veterans. Hence, unions have made much of a policy which goes beyond the Selective Service Act to give veterans, not previously employed, accumulated seniority in a plant equal to service time, provided they first serve a probationary period, and provided the seniority is not used to displace nonveteran workers. Unions also have established a policy of giving seniority credit to formerly employed veterans for service time, and have included them in demands for retroactive back pay, vacation benefits, and other war-won gains.

In this way, the unions have sought to cement relations with veterans; however, they have made clear that they will not approve of any tampering with seniority rights of nonveteran workers.

• **Minority Problem**—Yet, in coping with the growing union headache of minority group workers—in particular, Negro workers who have made major employment gains during the war—some unions have had little hesitancy over advocating changes in seniority provisions.

Rapid wartime expansion of industry resulted in more than doubling jobs in industry for Negroes—from 500,000 in 1940 to 1,250,000 in 1944. Most of these were in prime war industries, in which victory layoffs have been heaviest.

Now large blocs of these workers are losing jobs through the "last-hired, first-fired" seniority rule of unions. Demands are being made that unions protect employment gains made by these groups during the war.

• **Proportional Layoff**—Hot spot is the C.I.O., which has about 425,000 Negro workers represented in its internationals. Typical of what is happening to these is the situation in Detroit, where first large layoffs took jobs of 35,000 Negroes. It is doubtful that many of these will be able to get peacetime jobs in plants which were largely all-white before the war.

That is the basis of minority group demands for a proportional seniority plan in which prelayoff ratios of the different work groups would be maintained during dismissals—for instance, in a plant employing 500 white and 100 Negro workers, five of the white and one of the Negro workers would be laid off whenever the work force was reduced by six. Thus, Negro workers would retain representation in the plant as long as any jobs were available.

• **Backed by Union**—This plan has been advocated at both C.I.O. and A.F.L. conventions, and skirted by wary delegates (BW—Dec.2'44,p92). But it, nevertheless, continues to come up at regular intervals.

Recently a local of C.I.O.'s United Electrical Workers went to bat for Negro employees of the Murray-Metropolitan Corp. in Brooklyn, N. Y., and proposed to management that a proportional layoff plan should be adopted to prevent dismissal of a large percentage of Negroes in the plant.

The suggestion brought from management the same answer which has been heard consistently from unions in veteran seniority cases: There must be no tampering with seniority clauses, and layoffs not in accordance with length of service would be discriminatory.

• **Communists Protest**—Oddly enough, just as unions have claimed that advocates of superseniority—in violation of union seniority contract clauses—are seeking to break unions, in the Murray-Metropolitan case the Communist press lashed at management for attempting to break its U. E. local by standing firmly behind the contract clause providing for layoffs by seniority.

The premise was that when Negro employees find union rules barring them from old jobs, they will turn against the unions.

No one realizes better than union leadership that there may be a dangerous truth in this: Unions are going to be under pressure to provide work opportunities for this group—or lose its support.

But the danger, as they see it, is that if they do produce jobs at the cost of work for their white memberships, old prejudices will flare up, dissension may grow even greater, and the consequences may be even more severe.

• **The Steward Problem**—The third seniority headache for union leaders bothers fewer of them, because the contract clause which brings it up has not been commonly accepted. Many unions, with approval from NWLB, have been writing into contracts a provision that union officials and such functionaries as shop stewards are to have top seniority during their period of service. Theoretically, this protects union administrative machinery in plants from disarrangements due to shuffling of the work force.

Recently cases have been coming up, during layoffs, similar to this: A plant department, with a large work force, had twelve shop stewards who were given top seniority under a contract with the International Assn. of Machinists (A.F.L.). In a cutback, however, the wartime department reverted to peacetime normal personnel of only 15 workers—which, as it worked out, included three rank-and-file employees and twelve shop stewards. Only one would have been called for. Since a majority of the shop stewards would have lost their jobs except for their top seniority status, protests were immediate.

• **Back to Former Status?**—Questions involved have reached up into the top leadership of I.A.M.

Fundamentally, these are whether shop stewards should revert to their rightful place in the seniority list before layoffs are made, and—if not—just how long they may retain preferential status if there is no longer any need for them to function as shop stewards.

It is a problem closely similar to that of workers upgraded to foremen, who revert to their former status in cutback layoffs.

Management is interested because plant efficiency may be involved. Often shop stewards—chosen for union organizing ability and loyalty, and often deficient in job experience and skill—are rusty on plant jobs they must fill if their place in the plant is preserved. Management often finds that it is the loser in this seniority clash.

45-1945

Labor- General

Says Vets Will Be Given Chance

Pittsburgh Courier 2-24-45 Pa

By JOHN H. YOUNG III

JACKSON—Walter Spiva, director of the Mississippi Agricultural and Industrial Board, told me, "In Mississippi we are making an attempt to balance agriculture and industry." He said that the purpose of the board was two-fold: (1) To promote a development of industry already established in the State and (2) Invite industries of other sections to come to Mississippi.

I asked Mr. Spiva if Negroes had been considered in training labor to man these new industries. He said, "There has been no distinction made between whites and Negroes." I pointed out to him that many Negro veterans returning to Mississippi would be prepared to take over many of these jobs and asked him if he felt that these veterans would be given the opportunity to secure work at their various skills. In reply he said that he felt that they would.

2-24-45

MR. SPIVA WAS then asked if Mississippi would be able to furnish additional industries with trained labor. He said: "Between 1930 and 1940, Mississippi lost 14,000 workers because they had to leave the State to seek opportunity to work. Today, there are 69,000 Mississippians, civilians, in mechanical trades who are just outside the State borders." He felt that these workers would return to their State in the post-war period.

To show the necessity for a balance between agriculture and industry in Mississippi, Mr. Spiva said that "Eighty-two per cent of the people of Mississippi are engaged in agriculture. There are 290,000 farms in Mississippi. Sixty-five per cent of these farms are operated by tenants—white and colored—and 200,000-odd are dependent on cotton."

2-24-45

I ASKED Mr. Spiva if the cotton picker would seriously affect the Negro farmer. His reply was food for thought for the whole Nation. "I have recently witnessed a demonstration of the cotton picker. The results are startling. Beside replacing many farm hands, the cotton picker will restrict the production of cotton to the broad and level areas of the Delta."

Mr. Spiva is short in stature and of medium build. I would say that he is in his middle forties, notwithstanding his perfectly silver hair. Dressed in conservative, but well cut clothes, he had an appearance of just what he once was: a small town banker. A native of Virginia, he has been in Mississippi for many years.

2-24-45

HE GAVE ME the impression that he was well qualified to handle his position and that he would do so to the interest of Negroes as well as whites. The fact that a man of such integrity, high ideals and tolerance was appointed by Governor Bailey to this most responsible position should be of no small importance to the Negroes of Mississippi and the Nation.

60,000,000-Job Peacetime U. S. Solution Goal

Atlanta Daily World 1-7-45

Cites 70 Per Cent Of Negroes In War Industry

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Demobilized Negro soldiers will be the testing point of America's post-war democracy, declared Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission last week.

In a frank appraisal of peacetime prospects for Negroes in industry, the WMC chief said that the solution of the job problem for all workers is in a "60,000,000 job America."

"Post war America cannot be divided," McNutt stated. "Jobs for whites cannot be separated from jobs for blacks or jobs for women separated from jobs for men.

NO SEPARATE LINES

"No separate job lines can be drawn if we are to have a prosperous democratic America. The color line in industry is a line against democracy. Let us remember that the only lines that counted in making a ship, a plane, a jeep, a rifle were the lines on the blueprints."

McNutt credited America's record production to an all-American team powered by white and black manpower.

"The expansion of production schedules cracked industry's former practice of dividing workers into 'white man's jobs' and 'black man's jobs,'" he said.

URGES STRONG POLICIES

Pointing out that 7 per cent of the Negroes now in war production are in emergency, mushroom industries, such as shipbuilding, munitions, and aircraft, McNutt urged the establishment of strong federal policies to prevent post-war race discrimination.

He said that the establishment of the President's Executive Order 9346 "proved that the United States were engaged in an anti-fascist war."

"Opposition to Negro manpower in time of war foreshadows a greater opposition in time of peace—unless we lay down policies now to protect Negro manpower and all other minority manpower when the cutbacks and other production adjustments reduce jobs," he cautioned.

DEMONSTRATE KNOW-HOW

"Negroes have demonstrated their know-how in all the war industries," he said. "Their war-time skills are potentially convertible into the pay envelopes of peace."

McNutt pointed out that "Prejudice can not be swept away by fiat, by wishful thinking, by rhetoric. The industrial progress the Negro has made in the war years can only be guaranteed by an America in which there will be jobs for all Americans who want jobs."

Negroes' Permanent Place in Industry

Daily Worker - New York 3-30-45

THERE are people who pretend to be friends of the Negroes and shed crocodile tears on their miserable plight. They say that the Negroes should have equal rights (even though they are accused of being "inferior"), but should get them only if they keep in their place. Among these "friends" are Socialists. 3-30-45

Well, what is the Negro's place?

There are today at least **750,000** Negro men and women in the armed forces. Although the Negro soldier has suffered from many types of discrimination, now at last he is breaking through. He has fought in the jungles in the Far East, in the air and on the sea; but now for the first time, he is being allowed to fight on the Western Front in **mixed units**, in platoons side by side with white platoons, "mixing their sweat with blood," as one Negro soldier remarked. Their morale is high and this bodes well for the future of Negro-white relations in this country.

There are at least **1,500,000** Negroes in war industry and of them, fully **850,000 are organized in the trade unions.** These workers have been subject to discrimination both in the shops and in the community, but little by little, even this is being broken down.

When this was published, the Socialist Party could do nothing better than jump on Hudson and proclaim this a piece of "Communist treachery." The Socialist Party calls it treachery, but if we adhere to the strict interpretation of seniority, we repeat, there will be **no** jobs for Negroes. 3-30-45

ADMITTING that socialism is unacceptable to the people today, the only solution that the Call can offer is to declare that **"Negro employment can be maintained and advanced only in an expanding economy. The war economy is an expanding economy."**

So that is what the Socialists offer the Negro—**an expanding economy based upon war.** Only fascists would propose anything like that. This means **no jobs for Negroes** in peacetime and a hopeless surrender to the ideology and program of fascism.

All of us must work for the program of President Roosevelt, which is the real solution to the problem. Industry should work out the plans alone if possible, and if not possible with the aid of government and labor.

In the meantime, we must keep our heads on our shoulders and make such compromises as are necessary for the sake of the whites as well as the Negroes, and the whole trade union movement. The trade unions should discuss this question immediately and make decisions. **An educational campaign will be necessary in every organization.**

by Israel Amter

ORGANIZED labor has a sound program generally in the shops and of particular importance in wartime, as embodied in the system of **seniority.** However, **in view of the fact that Negroes were kept out of the industry until recently, thereby enjoying the lowest seniority, seniority as such is no solution for the immediate postwar period.** 3-30-45

In his pamphlet entitled Postwar Jobs, Roy Hudson sharply raised the question of the Negro worker in industry and came to the conclusion that because the Negroes were kept out of war industries, except in the menial jobs, until not so long ago, and because the Negroes have low seniority, the result would be that when layoffs occur, the Negroes would be the first to be fired and might find themselves completely out of the factory. This **would not help the white workers, the unions, or the Negro workers.** Hudson came to the conclusion that there is only **one** way to temporarily bridge over the situation until jobs have been established for all, and that is to depart from the system of seniority to the extent that a proportion of Negroes, **irrespective of seniority,** say in the ratio of 1 to 10, should be retained on the job when production and employment slacken. This will establish the right of Negro workers in industry

Daily Worker - New York 3-3-45

CITRINE RULES Chicago Defender OUT COLOR BAN

By HENRY LEE MOON
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

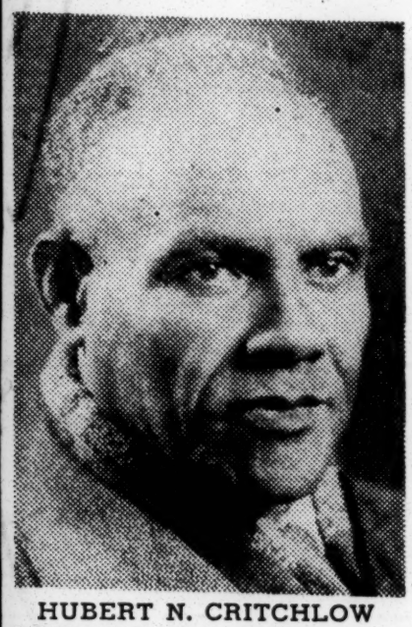
LONDON.—In the new international federation of trade unions to be established at the Paris conference next September, "no discrimination on grounds of creed, colors," Sir Walter Citrine, secretary of the British Trades Union Congress, declares in an article published in the Sunday Times last week. 3-3-45

While contending for an all-inclusive world labor movement, Sir Walter rejects the proposal to have the decisions of the world body made binding upon the member organizations. "In my opinion," he asserts, "it would be folly to attempt to compel adherence to joint decisions) to the democratic trade unions which will constitute the world federation." Sir Walter's article summarises the recent London conference and comments on the future of the international labor movement. "Many of the delegates," he points out, "had never previously attended an

nternational trade union conference. Others represented organizations of native workers in a comparatively primitive state of development. The delegates belonged to many different races, creeds and political attachments."

The old International Federation of Trades Unions, of which Sir Walter is president, limited representation to one central body in each nation. America is represented by the AFL. This article expresses the hope that the new organization will permit representation by more than one body where necessary.

THEY MADE HISTORY AT WORLD LABOR CONFERENCE



HUBERT N. CRITCHLOW
Militant British Guiana labor figure who was one of the Negro delegates present at the recent World Trade union conference in London. Critchlow, a veteran in labor's fight for due recognition, represented the Trades Union Council of British Guiana.

Chicago Defender

3-17-45

I. M. GARBA-JAHUMPA
Gambia's delegate to the history-making meeting whose unceasing efforts, along with the other laborites', led to the probability that Negro workers all over the world will assume their rightful place with whites in the post-war era.

3-17-45

JOSEPH S. ANNAN
One of the youngest men at the big London conference who was sent by the trade unions of Africa's Gold Coast. His spirited campaign during the session had much to do with the establishment of a permanent world federation.

Chicago Defender

3-17-45

T. A. BANKOLE
President of Nigeria's Trade Union Congress, who represented workers of England's largest African colony at the World Trade Union confab. The Nigerian leader stressed the need for a sound program in regard to colonial labor throughout the world.

3-17-45

KENNETH HILL
Spearhead of Negro labor's equal rights stand at the London labor parley. Hill, who was named to the post-conference committee to draw up plans for a permanent international workers' federation, is vice chairman of the Jamaica Trades Union Council.

54,000 Phila. Negroes Face Unemployment

By Federated Press Daily Worker 9-7-45 New York

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 6.—War contract cancellations and reduction of government payrolls will hit at the jobs of about 54,000 Negro workers in the Philadelphia area.

The estimate came from the division of Negro research and planning of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

Most serious of occupational reductions faced by the group, according to the state division, will be in shipbuilding, munitions and quartermaster and signal depots of the U. S. government.

Negro employment at the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Co., which hired more Negroes than any other war firm in the area, is expected to be "substantially reduced" as a result of the closing of the U. S. government-owned yard four of the Chester unit. At its peak production, Sun Ship employed about 18,000 Negro workers. The only field where Negro employment is expected to remain stable is in the railroad industry.

45a-1945

Rallying the Negro People Against Imperialism

The Worker

JOSH LAWRENCE
(From Report on Negro Work)

The peace for which we fought hinges first of all on curbing the juggernaut of American imperialism which increasingly takes over command of the Truman Administration, and is piloting the nation straight to disaster. But all is not clear sailing for these ambitious "pilots." The American people view with horror and anger their schemes which have already gone beyond the planning stage.

Among the clearest of these incensed voices is the voice of the Negro people. No newcomers to oppression, no novices in respect to betrayals, it is the Negro people who today can play a mighty role, giving important strength to the American working class in fulfilling its historic responsibilities to smash the schemes of American imperialism—the most dangerous in the world, because of its policies of world domination based on atomic might.

The vast majority of the Negro people—all but a few, unrepresentative individual voices—are not only demanding a return to the promise of the Four Freedoms as embodied in the Roosevelt policy, but a few more, as the saying goes. Reflected in the Negro press, is their support for the militant struggles of the colonial peoples everywhere. Not only do they recognize the expressed courage and greater determination for liberty on the part of the colonial peoples; they are encouraged by their struggles in China, in Indonesia, and draw new hope from them as they do also from the new democratic regimes in Europe. They deeply appreciate, as they have long done, the life giving force of the Soviet Union—the nation of a brotherhood no nations.

New York City

The Negro people represent a resolute obstacle to imperialist reaction in America. They are at the same time representative of much more. They are the touchstone of whether or not the people or their enemies are making headway in America. Their plight mirrors with almost mathematical exactness the state of the nation, the direction in which we are going.

The Worker

It is up to us to help rally the support of the Negro people to our program. It is this that will correlate the desires of the Negro people and give reality to their readiness to fight against American imperialist policies. Such will be the medium to unify their actions with labor and other progressives as well as assuring that their full strength is brought to bear in the people's offensive against reaction.

It is therefore imperative to do everything to ally the Negro people with labor around the prime struggles of the day; against intervention of American imperialism in China; for internationalization of the atomic bomb; for a return to the Roosevelt foreign policy, etc. It is because these policies have a direct relationship to the domestic policies of the Truman Administration, that it is likewise imperative for labor to fight more aggressively in support of the just demands of the Negro people at home.

New York

Any consideration of how we can most effectively involve the Negro people and labor in spport of these issues leads to an examination of what is happening to the Negro people today.

12-2-45

The most dramatic fact is that 1,000,000 Negro servicemen will soon be demobilized in the near future. Already some of the returning Negro veterans have been the recipients of attacks reminiscent of post World War I. At the same time, over one million Negro war workers from shipyards, factories and war plants of all descriptions have already been eliminated from industry and are at present unemployed or occupied in temporary, desultory jobs by the day or week. Here is evident some early "results" of victory for the Negro people. While sharing in common this jobless plight with millions of other Americans, Negro Americans have been hit in a special way. There has already resulted a growing lack of confidence in the Truman Administration, especially among Negro soldiers, who see in this administration no disposition to fight for them; to maintain the small gains made during the course of the war, or to come into head-on collision with an increasingly arrogant Congress on such domestic issues as a permanent FEPC, continued federalization of the USES, as against transfer of this authority to the states, the issue of full employment, etc. In their reaction to these events, the Negro people are showing a greater determination to struggle successfully against these attempts to destroy their wartime gains and to revert them to their prewar status. While we cannot close our eyes to developing moods of cynicism among the Negro people, and particularly Negro veterans, we know that such determination, if accompanied with strengthening the alliance of the Negro people and labor, greater confidence can be engendered and the battles won.

A word is in order with regard to the Negro-people-labor's alliance. It is undoubtedly true that the rampant, chauvinist attacks of the monopolies and by a large section of Congress has created a great deal of passivity among large sections of the labor movement in respect to the defense of the rights of their own Negro members, let alone the plight of the Negro people as a whole.

I want to deal with strengthening this alliance especially as it effects the CIO. In its national policies, the CIO is an outstanding champion of the Negro people. We know its role is quite different from that of the AFL bureaucratic leadership which has tight control over large sections of the AFL unions. But it is likewise a fact that in many of its state organizations the CIO needs to show much more alertness to integration of its Negro members in all phases of work. Two examples will point up this need. In Florida, the CIO organized a mass rally on Full Employment involving thousands of workers, yet this rally was held in a "lily-white" park, barring the participation of a single Negro worker and the local CIO organizations did not even fight to challenge this restriction or try to defeat it. Another is the lack of alertness as reflected on the World Trade Union Conference delegation—which involved and included millions of colored workers in all lands—in its failure to include on such a delegation a representative of Negro labor. It was the Negro organizations themselves, such as the National Negro Congress, the Negro Labor Victory Committee, and others, who sent as an observer the only Negro from the American labor movement, Charles Collins of the AFL. Such examples point to the need for much greater awareness on the part of the labor movement to assure that labor is in the forefront of the struggle to strengthen the alliance—in its own interests.

The most alarming example, however—alarming because of its deep effect on the very life of the trade union movement itself, was the wholesale wiping out, without resistance of the gains of the Negro war workers—in many cases eliminating them physically from plants and industries.

In Baltimore, in a yard formerly employing 3,000 Negroes, only 13 are left; Bendix Aircraft, in Philadelphia, retains seven out of a plant of over 285, etc. The unions, in their large majority, have completely failed to protest these developments and to initiate an effective program to guarantee that the very right to work, for Negroes won by the labor movement itself, would be defended whatever the complicated problems involved. Too often, many unions treated this as an "embarrassing' question, completely missing the point that in so doing they were endangering the ranks of labor and the vital interests of organized labor itself. In the interests of the labor movement, for its own protection against dismemberment, it must conduct a relentless, energetic fight to maintain its alliance with the Negro workers, to defend his rights and needs on all fronts, not by resolutions and manifestoes, alone, but by struggle for full employment in all aspects, and in its various aspects: fair employment, legislation which will guarantee when once passed that it actually is enforced, upgrading, equal pay, no discrimination of any kind—in industry or in inner union life, etc.

12-2-45

I would like to emphasize the tremendous responsibility that we have in the Party to deepen the understanding of the trade union movement as to why this must not be approached from a humanitarian viewpoint, "doing something for the Negroes" but as a special responsibility, because of the special abuse to Negroes, to take special steps so that it is wiped out and so that Negro workers can join the ranks of labor on the basis of complete equality.

Return of USES to States Blow to Colored Workers

Baltimore, Md.
Afro-American

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—Prospects for the transfer of colored workers from war to peacetime jobs, and for the proper redistribution of these workers, were lessened last Wednesday by the recommendation of the Senate Appropriations Committee for the return of the United States Employment Service to the States.

In reporting favorably the $51,000,000 appropriations cutback bill, the committee recommended an amendment providing for the return of the employment services to the States within 120 days after enactment of legislation to affect "an orderly" way of doing it.

11-24-45

Deny Truman Request

The action of the committee was a rejection of President Truman's request that the employment service facilities and personnel, borrowed from the States in 1942, be retained under Federal control until 1947.

Singularly, the hearings on the bill before a Senate appropriations subcommittee, made public the same day the measure was reported, disclosed that no representative of any colored organization appeared in opposition to the return of the employment services to the States.

In informed circles it is believed that transfer of the employment services to the States will impair the services that a nationwide Federal employment agency might render to displaced colored war workers and veterans, who may have no unemployment compensation claims.

Fear Return of Bias

When the employment services are returned to the States, it is feared that the State agencies will revert to their former practice of not referring colored applicants to jobs unless the employer specifies that colored help is wanted.

In some Southern States, the agency made no effort to assist colored job applicants find employment and in other Southern States separate facilities were maintained for handling colored workers.

Another factor, which will prove detrimental to colored workers if the employment services are returned to the States, is that fact that the employment service is an integral part of unemployment compensation.

Administration of unemployment compensation payments is controlled by the determination of whether suitable employment is available and whether the applicant for unemployment compensation benefits.

In accordance with procedures applicable to grants made to the States for the administration of their unemployment compensation laws under the Social Security Act.

...nate appropriations com... provides that the existing ...tion for employment of... ...ities and services in the ...deral Security Appropria... ...of 1946 shall also be ... for grants to the States ...e the cost of operation ...e systems of public of... ...no matching of funds by ...s will be required.

The grants to the States are to be made by the Secretary of Labor through the Social Security Board

45a-1945

Negro Parley Here Hails Army's Mixed Combat Policy

Daily Worker N.Y. 3-26-45

The Army's policy of mixed combat troops on the Western Front was hailed yesterday as 200 delegates to the Metropolitan Area Labor Conference, called by the Negro Labor Victory Committee, wound up a two-day session at the Fraternal Clubhouse.

The delegates greeted the news that Negroes and whites were fighting shoulder to shoulder against the common enemy and called for continuation of this policy until all discrimination and segregation are wiped out. 3-26-45

At the same time, they called on trade unions with jimcrow locals to open doors to Negroes and whites alike, and to ensure all members equal participation in union activity.

"We urge progressive and forward looking forces within the American Federation of Labor to eliminate vicious jimcrow practices from the trade union movement," they said.

The conference also roundly condemned John L. Lewis for his strike plot against the nation and "deplored the fact that A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, has lent his support to Lewis. A resolution asked Randolph to "reverse his policy and repudiate Lewis." 3-26-45

Delegates held a spirited discussion on the seniority question, with the result that a resolution, to be sent to all unions, asked that the labor movement see to it that gains made by Negroes during the war are safeguarded and extended. The Negro Labor Victory Committee was authorized to set up a committee to study and make recommendations on Negro employment.

Speakers included Assemblymen Hulan Jack, William T. Andrews and William Prince, as well as Shelton Tappes of Local 660, United Auto Workers, and Thomas Richardson, international vice-president of the CIO federal workers. Moran Weston, field secretary of the NLVC, was conference chairman.

NEGRO LABOR UNIT MEETS

N.Y. Times

'Jim Crow' Policies in 29 AFL Groups Are Condemned

3-25-45

Discriminatory practices within the ranks of organized labor were denounced yesterday at a conference sponsored by the Negro Labor Victory Committee at which delegates and other officials stressed the recent progress made by minority groups in many industries and war services. The session was held in the Fraternal Club House, 110 West Forty-eighth Street.

Charles A. Collins, executive secretary of the committee and a delegate of the Hotel and Employes Union, Local 6, American Federation of Labor, in presenting the committee's report, criticized the executive board of the AFL for the manifestation of "Jim Crow policies" by twenty-nine of its affiliates. 3-25-45

John A. Davis, director of the Division of Review and Analysis, Fair Employment Practice Committee, outlined the progress made by Negroes, but pointed out that 'the jurisdiction of the FEPC applies mainly to war contracts and as victory and peace approach its activities will diminish."

"The Negro worker's future, like that of all American workers," he said, "depends upon the achievement of full employment for the entire nation."

Harlem Labor Leader Off To Union Congress

Delegate To International Trade Union Congress In Paris Sails On 'Argentina'

Charles A. Collins sailed on Friday, Sept. 14, on the S. S. Argentina, to attend the International Trade Union Congress in Paris on the 24th of this month.

Mr. Collins, who is the business representative of Local 6, Hotel and Club Employes, an American Federation of Labor affiliate, accepted the invitation of the Conference Committee on behalf of the three organizations, representing labor and the Negro people in America.

In a statement prepared just prior to his departure, Mr. Collins said that "The labor movement of the world is perhaps the only guarantee we have for safeguarding the peace that has been won at such a terrific price. It will be the responsibility of world labor to help organize the workers of the colonies, thereby enabling them to take their place as equals in its councils.

"Labor is committed," Mr. Collins added, "to the eradication of the remnants of fascism existing today in the victorious as well as the defeated nations, particularly in our own country, where jim crowism and segregation still run rampant." Mr. Collins is the executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee.

Ohio Plant Accepts FEPC Order To Hire Negro Women

Philadelphia Tribune 1-27-45 p2

ZANESVILLE, (ANP)—Regardless of race, creed or color, Line Material, a war plant here, will hire additional workers, officials agreed last week after the FEPC interceded. This promise which primarily concerned the hiring of colored women, must become a reality by February 28 or the committee will resume its probe, Emmanual Block, hearing commissioner, revealed.

Job-Seeking Youths Need Proof of Age

Richmond Times

The United States Department of Labor yesterday warned boys and girls seeking jobs away from their home communities to carry proof of their age with them.

Failure to have such proof of age may result in many youngsters finding themselves away from home, with limited funds, and losing out on job opportunities because without proof of age they cannot get a work permit of employment certificate. 5-12-45

For the jobs most of these young migrants are seeking, the Department of Labor said, 16 years is the minimum age under both State and Federal laws. For jobs that are held hazardous to their health and safety, young workers must be at least 18 years old. To be on the safe side, jobseekers under 20 should be prepared to prove their age.

YEARBOOK OF AMERICAN LABOR, Volume 1: War Labor Policies, edited by Warne and others (Philosophical Library, $7.50).

N.Y. Times 3-25-45

WDL Investigators Terrorized, Leave Fla.

AFL-American 4-5-45

MIAMI—Warnings, threats, and an assault last week upon Nathan Bailey, Workers' Defense League informant in the Florida forced labor case, have caused other WDL informants and investigators to leave their homes in Eustic Lake County.

Bailey was among others who have filed an affidavit with the Department of Justice for investigation of the arresting of colored workers and fining without trial on vagrancy charges if they refused to work on Saturday.

Collins, AFL Official, Sails for Paris Parley

Charles Collins, executive secretary of the Negro Labor Victory Committee and business representative of Hotel Club Employes, Local 6, AFL, sailed yesterday on the S.S. Argentina for the World Trade Union Federation Congress which opens in Paris Sept. 25.

Collins, well-known Negro trade unionist, accepted the invitation of the conference committee on behalf of the three organizations representing labor and the Negro people in America.

In a statement prepared just prior to his departure, Mr. Collins said that "the labor movement of the world is perhaps the only guarantee we have for safeguarding the peace which has been won at such a terrific price. It will be the responsibility of world labor to help organize the workers of the colonies, thereby enabling them to take their place as equals in its Council.

"Labor is committed," Collins added, "to the eradication of the remnants of fascism existing today in the victorious as well as the defeated nations, particularly in our own country where Jimcrowism and segregation still run rampant."

Formal greetings will be delivered by Mr. Collins on behalf of Ferdinand C. Smith, Chairman of the Negro Labor Victory Committee; Max Yergan, President of the National Negro Congress, and Paul Robeson, Chairman of the Council on African Affairs.

Collins is the second member of the Hotel and Restaurant Union to go to Paris. The other is Nick Lazari, who has been named by his Pittsburgh local to attend as an observer.

The Committee for AFL Participation in the World Trade Union Federation yesterday wired greetings to the British Trade Union Congress and an expression of regret at AFL fraternal delegate George Meany's "unwarranted attacks upon the Soviet unions."

The cable, signed by Courtney Ward, chairman, and Thomas Wilson, secretary, said:

"The AFL membership, through resolutions of locals and central unions, on numerous occasions expressed desire for world cooperation and participation in an all-embracing labor federation. No such cooperation is possible unless the mighty Soviet trade unions are part of such an organization.

CHARLES COLLINS
To observe WFTU Parley

"Meany's attacks run counter to the aims and desires of American labor.

"Our committee, consisting of responsible AFL officials, shall work untiringly to bring the truth to our membership. We are confident that the AFL will not remain isolated for long, but will join in the common cause with you and all labor for the security and advancement of labor's rights and economic standards.

Unions, meanwhile, continued to add their names to the petition of the committee headed by Ward and Wilson. The latest came through the executive committee of Local 107, Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Workers. The board endorsed the program of the committee.

White Collar Center Trains Union Leaders

By BETH McHENRY

Every Friday evening at the White Collar Center, 30 E. 29 St., 40 alert young workers from as many shops file into class to study one of the biggest subjects in the world—leadership.

The worker-students are delegates from their shops, and their responsibility to master the course they've undertaken is great—their fellow workers have designated them as potential leaders. When they finish the leadership classes they are pledged to undertake an assignment in the union, organizing.

CONCRETE INSTRUCTION

The White Collar leadership school, based on a program first introduced into the trade unions by the National Maritime Union, is sponsored by Local 1 of the United Office and Professional Workers, CIO. It was planned by the local's educational committee and has won the support and interest of many other unions in the city.

The classes include lectures and discussions in collective bargaining, organizing, political action, union education and union activities. Nothing is taught in the abstract. The students are elected from their shops for the most part, and the shops pay the small tuition. The bulk of the students at present are women, but a few men have come into the classes and a high attendance of veterans looms for the near future.

The Leadership School is one of the many rounded out courses now available at this Office and Professional School sponsored by Local 1. A series of "professional" classes have already brought a wealth of technical knowledge to white collar students anxious to upgrade. These classes differ from the run-of-the-mill courses in universities, where teachers sometimes aloof from the trade provide instruction in, say, the book industry. Here instructors from publishing houses, authorities in their field, teach from a practical point of view. The courses include the Preparation of Manuscripts, the Principles of Book Publishing, Book Design, Advertising—What Is It? and others.

Bernice Fields, the union's energetic Activities Director, said this year's school is the best so far.

Leaders in Training: Two white collar workers signing up for courses at the Office and Professional School. Left to right, Blondell French, school delegate; George Squire, instructor; Bernice Field, Local 1's activities director; and Gertrude Cohn, school delegate.

Most welcome students of all, of course, are the returning veterans, for whom the school cuts the fee in half and provides scholarships.

45a-1945

General

Group Formed To Deal With Negro Labor Problems

Orange, N.J. Transcript

Wholesale Layoffs Spur Activity To Prevent Strife

8-23-45

The aftermath of the V-J Day holiday led to the creation of the Committee on Negro Problems in reconversion, at the August 17 meeting of Local 416, UER&MWA-CIO. When the organization voted to continue itself after the wholesale layoff of its members at Eastern Aircraft, Bloomfield, and Eclipse Aviation, East Orange, the problems of its Negro members received immediate attention.

Henry Booth, Executive Board member and outstanding leader of Local 416 for the last two and one half years, outlined the purposes of the committee as follows:

"Labor, and Local 416 of the U. E. in particular, see in the closing of Eastern Aircraft, Bloomfield and Ampere plants a threat to the post war security of the Negro people. The full employment of the war years saw the emergence of the Negro as an integral part of industry, working with his fellow workers to achieve the greatest production job in world history. The Negro is determined to keep the place he has won for himself in industry. A place which can be won by uniting with his white brothers in the labor movement to fight for "Jobs for All" — 60,000,000 jobs in an all out peace production economy.

"The closing of war plants with no reconversion plans in view as expendable "war babies" will lead only to unemployment and the strife engendered by it. Labor is determined that this war's end will not see a repetition of the last one." 8-23-45

"The committee members have been busy conferring with Negro and white leaders in this area and will announce their plans as they mature. Following are the members: Samuel Allen, John Arnold, Anthony DeSola, Mary Johnson, Lorene Kaphan, Thomas Leavy, Frances Martin, Hazel Pugh, Victor Quinlan, Reubinia Simmons, Mae Smith, Elizabeth Tucker, Richard Wood, Quincy Yaborough and Henry Booth, Chairman.

DES MOINES, IOWA SUC. FRMG. SEPTEMBER, 1945

THE FARMER SPEAKS

A national survey of opinions of a cross-section of 6,000,000 farmers. Conducted impartially

No Race Law

Question 1-a: Do you favor or oppose a law in this state which would require employers to hire a person if he is qualified for the job, regardless of his race or color?

Answer:

	Favor	Oppose	No Opinion
All Farmers.....	27%	59%	14%

No sitting on the fence on this question. When 59 percent come thru with a crashing "No" on a race law, it is pretty certain that people have thought about it and have decided against it.

The "white race above all" argument was sounded by a goodly percentage of farmers. As a man from Oklahoma put it, "I believe in giving the whites preference. If there are any jobs left, give them to the other races."

From Kentucky comes this comment: "The Negro has his place so let him stay there." A Rio Grande man says, "Trying to have race equality in the South would start a revolution."

"Un-American," said a Nebraska woman about the proposed law. "The employer should use his own judgment." A Washington man asked us, "How would you like to work with a Jap?"

"Even if the law did get passed, it wouldn't work," said a Georgia man. "A man can't do a good job where he isn't wanted." A Wyoming man added, "Too many nationalities don't work together."

The 27 percent *in favor* of a race law mostly answered with the "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" creed.

"Every citizen should have the same rights," said a man from Vermont. "Don't hold a grudge," put in a Texas woman. "It's what America means—free for all."

"God made men alike and we shouldn't separate them," said a South Dakota man. A broad-minded Tennessee woman commented, "If a man can do the job, his color doesn't matter."

Question 1-b: Would you favor or oppose a state law which would require employees to work alongside persons of any race or color?

Answer:

	Favor	Oppose	No Opinion
All Farmers.....	28%	59%	13%

The 28 percent favoring this law had about the same outlook as the ones favoring the employer law. "The next fellow is just as good as I am," said a Nevada woman. "Some of us can't help being Irish or Dutch," commented a Wisconsin man. From Ohio, "Negroes are human, aren't they?"

The opposers held up the "free country" idea. "It should be left up to the people," said a South Dakota man. "Can't regulate such things by law," commented a man [*Turn to page 16* from Montana. "Shouldn't use force," added a man from South Carolina. From Kansas came the question, "Who would want to be cooped up with a Negro?" A New Mexico man came into the argument with, "Next, Negroes would want to marry whites."

It seems the whole question boils down to part of the people saying America is a free country and anyone has a right to work anywhere he wants to, and another part saying America is a free country and anyone has a right not to work with someone if he doesn't want to.

Who's Making the Money?

Question 2-a: What class or group of people in this country has done best financially during the war as compared with what they made before the war?

Answer:

	All Farmers
Working class, common man, skilled labor, unskilled labor	38%
War workers	17
Upper class, big business, industrialists	12
Farmers	10
Lower class, poor	5
Middle class, white collar	2
Racial—Jews and colored, Mexicans	2
Everyone, all classes	2
Miscellaneous	2
Don't know, no answer	10
	100%

No, says John Farmer, the farmers aren't the ones raking in the gold. It's the laboring class, the war workers, the industrialists. Only 10 percent of our respondents thought farmers had made the most money during the war as compared with their earnings before the war.

Just to keep the record straight and perhaps to set a few farmers rocking on their heels, your Farmer Speaks reporter looked up some income figures. This is what he found:

Comparing incomes in 1943 to those of 1939, the income of business and professional men has gone up 112 percent. The income of the working class, skilled and unskilled, has risen 143 percent. But the farmers have an income of 147 percent over their 1939 level.

Question 2-b: Do you think any class or group of people in this country is NOT making as much money as it should?

Answer:

	Yes	No	No Opinion
All Farmers.....	51%	28%	21%

Question 2-c: Which group?

Answer:

	All Farmers
Farmers	26%
White collar, semiprofessional	15
Business and professional	7
Skilled and unskilled laborers	2
Minority groups—Negroes, etc.	1
Domestic and other service workers	1
Poorer class, working class	1
Miscellaneous	1
No answer	1
	55%*

Farmers were in no doubt about their rights on this question. "Who isn't getting his share of the money?" the interviewer asked.

"We," said the farmers. "We're not getting our share."

Could be the men of the soil look at it this way: Suppose farm income *has* gone up 147 percent since 1939, does that mean it is high enough now? END

ST. PAUL, MINN.
PIONEER-PRESS
Cir. D. 70,642—S. 119,272

SEP 21 1945

Hiring Of Negroes Held Up To Firms

If industrial management really wants to hire Negro workers, it can do so without segregating them from other employes, M. A. Cope, industrial relations director for a Chicago firm, said Thursday night at the twenty-second annual dinner of the St. Paul Urban league in Pilgrim Baptist church, 732 W. Central ave.

Cope said that 30 per cent of the employes of the Shure Bros. Co., the firm he represents, are Negroes. They work in all jobs—office and production — manufacturing radio equipment, he added.

Honored at the dinner were S. E. Hall, Owen Howell, Mrs. Mary D. McFarland and John J. Doyle, original founders of the Urban league who met in the Pilgrim church twenty-two years ago for the first meeting.

Mayor McDonough, representing St. Paul, greeted the more than 200 persons present.

Huge Concern Lauds Negro And White Workers Equally

NEW YORK, Oct. 8—In response to a direct inquiry by the governing NAACP, Bayuk Cigars incorporated of Philadelphia, Pa., has denied flatly that it recently requested 1,000 women, "white only," Negro from the United States Employment Service.

"For many years we employed more Negroes in our plants and our than any company in the State of Pennsylvania, with the exception of the Pennsylvania Railroad. At that time Negroes constituted approximately 25 per cent of our employees. Today 40 per cent of our employees are Negroes and we are adding to this percentage at the rate of approximately 50 per week.

"Negroes in this plant enjoy exactly the same advantages and opportunities as do the

not expect to lay off any work- has agreed to hire colored people er, whatever the race or creed, on the production line. 10-12-45
for any reason other than those governing efficient work. It may interest you to know that our workers are increasing their ability and effectiveness our relations with them over period of years are based on the policies outlined above, and we believe understood and appreciated by them."

The Bayuk Company's most famous cigar is "Phillies."

45a-1945

NATIONAL NEWS BITS MISSOURI

NEGROES HIRED IN CAR PLANT

LOS ANGELES—For the first time in the history of Los Angeles, an automobile firm in this area

Today's Guest Column

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

by Alphaeus Hunton

IT WAS extremely unfortunate, though entirely without deliberate intention, that no Negro member was included in the CIO delegation to the current Constitutional Convention of the World Trade Union Congress.

However, this has in no sense detracted from the great interest which Negro organizations and labor are taking in the meeting. Two leading Negro weeklies have sent writers to Paris to cover the conference. The Negro recognizes the fact that this organization of world labor is the main hope of getting the kind of world that the common man, whatever his color, has fought a war to win.

As you perhaps read, the Negro Labor Victory Committee, National Negro Congress and the Council on African Affairs jointly sponsored the sending of Charles Collins, executive secretary of the first-named organization, to the Paris meeting. This sponsorship was broadened last week when several prominent Negro labor and civic leaders in New York joined in endorsing a statement to be submitted through Mr. Collins to the World Trade Union Congress.

The statement had as its main theme the responsibility which world labor has of uprooting colonial imperialism and all the "artificial barriers which now divide workers of different races." Unless this is accomplished, the statement said, labor "will fail in its efforts to win the security and freedom of any workers."

"As American labor has a direct responsibility for broadening the basis of democracy in the United States, so British labor, French labor, Dutch labor and the organized labor forces of every other imperialist power have a direct responsibility for extending democracy to the colonial peoples ruled by their respective governments. **This responsibility must be fulufilled both through direct pressure by organized labor within each country—this should most certainly be effective especially in Great Britain at the present time—and through the collective influence and strength of the World Trade Union Conference....**

10-4-45

"We earnestly hope that the Convention will fix responsibility on its general officers, and create, if necessary, a special agency to guarantee consistent and effective action ... towards attainment of full national independence and security for the colonies, dependencies and subject countries."

New York, N.Y.

THE colonial workers' specific handicaps, including the color bar, forced labor, pass law system, and restrictions upon trade unionism, were pointed out in the statement. It was emphasized that there must be full support of the liberation struggle of colonial peoples, since democratic labor rights can only be achieved within a democratic political framework. The statement called special attention to the grave situation in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (and the signers at the same time telegraphed President Truman demanding that the United States not be a party to any coercive retoration of European colonialism in the Far East).

The labor delegates in Paris have already had the issue of colonial independence placed before them sharply by representatives from colonial areas. One of these representatives, S. A. Dange, president of the All-India Trade Union Congress, stated last week that though he "did not want to wreck the conference on political issues," it was necessary to take note of how American and British troops together with the Japanese were attempting to crush the national independence movements in many parts of the Far East.

10-4-45

"People who demand independence are being shot down," he said. "What is the attitude of the British, Dutch and French working classes? These are inconvenient questions, but labor must decide whether it will support the governments responsible for such things."

Negro Americans echo this Indian leader's questions. What will world labor do to combat the bold resurgence of imperialist forces? It is hoped that the present Paris Conference may provide some concrete answer.

PM New York, New York 11-3-45

This labor group is one of several which called on President Truman at the White House last week in a prelude to the Labor-Management conference starting today. Left to right are: Willard Townsend, president United Transport Service Employes; John Green, president Independent Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers; Julius Emspak, secretary-treasurer of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; Reid Robinson, president of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Southern Governors Laud Truman's Stand

The Worker, New York, N.Y. Montgomery, Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7.—(AP)—President Truman's statement favoring equalization of the freight rate structure was received enthusiastically by Southern governors in conference here today.

The governors had devoted much of their opening session to discussion of their fight against what they have termed discriminatory rates.

12-8-45

Governor Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma, conference chairman, said, "the president in line with his established policies has taken a stand in favor of equality of all sections of the nation. We in the South and West seek only the privilege of equality of opportunity. We do not believe anyone would seriously ask us to be satisfied with less."

Governor Chauncey Sparks of Alabama said the president had made a "very fine declaration which everyone in the United States can subscribe to."

"We're asking for equality, not special favors or privileges," he added.

"I want to say 'amen' to what the president said," declared Gov. Ransome J. Williams of South Carolina.

Governor Jimmie Davis of Louisiana added, "that's the thing we've been working for."

The president's statement was called "a splendid declaration of the attitude of all right thinking people" by Gov. Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi. He said the governors "will keep up the fight until equality has been accomplished throughout the country."

Equalization of freight rates is "all the South wants now or has ever wanted," Gov. Millard F. Caldwell of Florida asserted.

Gov. Ben Laney of Arkansas said Mr. Truman's declaration was "very encouraging."

12-8-45

"I have a lot of confidence in President Truman," he asserted. "Equality is what we feel entitled to and all we want."

45a-1945

~~Labor~~- Agents and Agencies

Full Employment Seen

Chicago Defender — Ill.

Post-War Need Of Negro

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON. — Former "GI," recently turned Congressman, Rep. Melvin Price (D., Ill.), is leveling his big guns on any and all obstacles to the full and fair employment consideration of workers in the East St. Louis area.

Commenting on the long-range employment outlook for Negroes in his district, Congressman Price said, "the situation looks pretty favorable," asserting, that "at least for five to ten years after the war everything ought to be good."

He based his assertion on the fact that there were no "purely war-constructed industries" in the East St. Louis area. While all were producing for war needs, he said, they will be easily reconverted to peace-time production, come the end of the war. 2-24-45

"The continuous employment of Negroes in their present occupations will depend largely on a program of full-employment for all workers. Their late entry in these new employment fields has not provided them with sufficient seniority to guarantee their retention except through employment for all workers, the congressman stated.

Backs 60 Million Jobs

He, therefore, supports to the utmost the President's plan for 60,000,000 jobs. "It was a part of my platform," he said.

Moreover, he stands "absolutely" behind the program proposed by former Vice President Henry A. Wallace to make these 60,000,000 jobs a reality. 2-24-45

Congressman Price believes that equal opportunity for job consideration should be guaranteed all workers through a permanent Fair Employment Practices commission with teeth in it. He dismissed any premise that such legislation would be effective under purely voluntary means. "It wouldn't mean a thing," he declared. "Employers would find many ways to reject certain people from employment and wouldn't worry about giving an excuse.

"If there is some way to enforce non-discrimination, employers would have to substantiate reasons for not hiring an individual.

"With enforcement provisions, if applicants prove they have been given a false reason, they would have some recourse through the law." 2-24-45

Hits Poll Tax

Turning to the current political upheaval—in the South, in which certain southern states have taken action to remove the poll tax as a voting requirement, Congressman Price said, "I am in favor of anti-poll tax legislation. Suffrage is one right guaranteed by the Constitution. I don't see how any group or state can deprive citizens of this right." 2-24-45

He viewed as especially "healthy" the fact that the states are taking the initiative themselves, and feels that it will do much to break down the resistance of those who attempt to "hold out."

Price's sojourn in the army, stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia, made him especially aware of the production needs which must be met to keep the wheels of victory rolling, and has sharpened his interest in the present and future employment forecast for his district. His position on the House Military Affairs committee requires of him a double responsibility to see that the right man is at the right place at the right time. It is expected that the position of his big guns will be shifted on new targets as the employment needs dictate. 2-24-45

Price was a former employee of the National Youth Administration and reporter for the St. Louis Globe Telegraph. Of his former boss, Aubrey Williams, who is at present a target for the Senate Agriculture committee, which is weighing his qualifications for the post as Rural Electrification Administrator, Price said, "I think he will make a good man for the post." 2-24-45

Defending the position taken by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell (D., N.Y.) on the anti-discrimination amendment to the May-Bailey bill, Price termed the Republican support of the amendment a "trick to defeat the bill and at the same time lay claim to being all out in their support of FEPC. Powell was smart enough to see the Republican move and ask for the defeat of the amendment."

REP. MELVIN PRICE

Colonials At WTU Confab

Pittsburgh Courier

2-17-45 Bulletin! Pa.

LONDON—Voicing hopes and aspirations of millions of colored peoples the world over, Kenneth Hill, delegate from Jamaica, addressed the World Trade Union Conference Monday by demanding complete self-determination for all colonial peoples in Asia, Africa, West Indies and the Pacific Islands.

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Our London Correspondent)

LONDON (Censored)—Rallying to the clarion call of the German-Jewish philosopher, Karl Marx—"Proletarians of the world unite!", representatives of fifty million organized trade unionists have assembled in London, the capital of the greatest world-wide empire, to discuss ways and means to help the working classes of the world, regardless of race, color or creed, achieve their emancipation after victory over the Axis powers has been achieved. 2-17-45

INVITE COLONIAL LABOR LEADERS

After defeats and set-backs, the leaders of the British Trade Union Congress, have at last come to realize the truism of that wise old man, Mark, that "Labor in the white skin can never free itself while labor in the black skin is enslaved." Consequently, Sir Walter Citrine, general secretary of the TUC invited the colored workers in various parts of the empire to send delegates to the world conference.

Ever ready to extend the hand of international solidarity to their white skin brothers of toil, the newly organized West African trade unions have sent representatives in order to put before the conference reports dealing with the low rates of wages, bad housing conditions and terribly long hours under which the native workers in the mines, plantations and other capitalistic enterprises labor.

Nigeria, the largest British colony in Africa, is represented by T. A. Bankole, the president of the Nigeria Trade Union Congress. Gold Coast is represented by G. Annan and Gambia, by the Hon. E. F. Small, "the father" of West African trade unionism, and labor representative on the Legislative Council of that colony.

INDIAN ATTENDS 2-17-45

The Indian trade union movement is represented by S. A. Dange, president of the All-India Trade Union Congress and A. K. Mukerji; while China's spokesman is Chu Hsneh Fan.

I understand that other colored delegates are on the way and will take part in the work of the special commissions that will be set up to investigate the problems of African and Asiatic workers. Among those who are expected are: Wallace Johnson, president of the Sierra Leone Trade Union Congress, who was recently released from prison where he had been detained since the beginning of the war as an "agitator;" Ken Hill, trade union official from Jamaica; Ralph Mentor, secretary of the Oilfields Workers' Union of Trinidad and editor of the "Vanguard," official mouthpiece of the trade union movement in that island.

IWO Has 5,000 Negro Members

Daily Worker

2-4-45

The Negro membership in the International Workers Order has reached 5,000, it was stated by Sam Patterson, IWO National Negro Organizer, in a report to the semi-annual General Council sessions, which was released yesterday.

The annual financial report to by Mrs. Louise Thompson-Patterson, director, was also released. The General Council showed that son of Chicago, an IWO general the total membership of the IWO, vice-president, and by Samuel Pat-as of Dec. 31, 1944, combining terson. 2-4-45 adult, juvenile and social members, Mr. Milgrom noted that since has attained the all-time high of January a total of 1,583 Negroes had 173,516. N.Y. N.Y.

The main report on the progress Chicago, 542 in New York, and 132 of the IWO Negro recruiting cam- in Detroit. paign was made by Sam Milgrom, General Director of Organization, and was supplemented with reports

S. J. Phillips, director, announced in Tuskegee yesterday ance," Phillips said, "with the Federal Workers' In- given a 'Worker's Code of Honor' uld hold two sessions to help them daily on their jobs' sday. The first session, and 'Five Keys to A Full Purse' would be held at the which will point the way to Washington Highgreater economic success."

7:30 p.m. and the sec- oveless High School at the same date.

In all forms of em- e said, were urged to least one of the ses- e Better Workers' In-

Negroes in ployment, attend sions of the

Institute For Negro Workers Slated Here

Address

Macon War Plant Hires Race Women

Atlanta World - Ga.

4-25-45

MACON, Ga.—(ANP)— For the first time since it opened in 1942, the huge naval ordnance plant here has Negro women working on the production lines. 4-25-45

Employment of the women followed a long and persistant fight led by the Macon branch, March on Washington Movement, aided by the southeastern regional office of the FEPC, which ordered W. L. Shiver, manager of the Macon office, USES, not to refer any more women employes to the plant until the application of hundreds of Negro women had been given fair consideration.

Ninety per cent of the plant's employes are women. Chief opposition to the employment of Negro women, curiously enough, did not come from either management or the employes, but from white Macon housewives, who feared lowering of the barriers would rob them of maids, cooks and nurses.

The number of the women employed was not disclosed because of security reasons, but Mr. Shiver revealed that they were members of the first class of Negro women trained at the Macon Vocational school, which previously had barred its doors to them.

Employment Office To Open At Tuskegee

4-24-45

Montgomery Advertiser

TUSKEGEE, ALA., April 24.—To serve returning veterans, all job seekers and employers of Macon County, a full-time office of the U. S. Employment Service will open in Tuskegee May 1. 4-25.

Located at 510 North Main St., the office will be open Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Thomas F. Daughtry in charge. Mrs. Robert Fisher will be receptionist.

Jimcrow Won't Return to Sperry, Head of War Plant Here Pledges

Daily Worker, N.Y. 4-10-45

The Sperry Gyroscope Co., which until May, 1941, did not employ a single Negro, today employs a total of 1,200 in Brooklyn and Long Island plants, including Ford Instrument Co., and never again expects to return to a Jimcrow policy, according to R. E. Gillmor, president.

The company's reversal in policy and its experiences in employment of Negro personnel are described in a booklet just issued by the Sperry corporation in which Mr. Gillmor predicts that the Negro is here to stay in American industry generally.

Although those first put on the job were originally assigned as movers, porters and matrons, many immediately qualified as learners for machine tool operations and others came directly to the job with skills, the company executive reports. Today, Negroes are employed at Sperry in 28 different occupations, he says.

Regarding the firm's former ban on colored personnel, Gillmor says this was "simply a habit."

WAS CONVINCED 4-10-45

He credits "some of the Negro organizations" with convincing the firm of the logic and ethics of opening opportunity more widely and describes their representations as "intelligent, objective and helpful." Readers of the Daily Worker will recall that the National Negro Congress was among the leading organizations that undertook to crack Jimcrow at Sperry.

The company's peak employment was hit in July, 1943, and since then cutbacks have caused personnel to drop about 20 percent on an overall basis. However, the reduction among Negroes, Gillmor reports, has been less than six percent "indicating that they are more than holding their own."

Of the 1,200 currently employed, a third are in highly skilled occupations, a third in semi-skilled and the remaining third in other jobs. A considerable number, Gillmor says, are leaders, instructors and tool setters for groups of 10 to 20. One is a foreman. A small number hold office posts. About 38 per cent are women. 4-10-45

Difficulties anticipated because of chauvinism among white workers never materialized, Gillmor says.

He pays tribute to the CIO union at the shop, Local 450 of the CIO United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers where he says that the atmosphere is marked by a "really sincere and courteous cooperation and mutual respect." Of the union's approximately 300 shop stewards, 22 are Negroes, one of them the only one of his race in his department.

"I do not think that there will ever again come a time when we will not have colored people in a wide variety of occupations and I hope that the number of these occupations will continually increase," says the corporation executive. 4-10-45

The booklet, which is based on a speech by Gillmor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at Chicago, is marred only by one major defect—that is that the word Negro is consistently spelled with a small N. But Gillmor's findings show he is thinking in terms of capital letters just the same.

Negroes in Government

Survey mid monthly

Negroes have made "tremendous gains in federal employment during the war," according to an interim report recently published in mimeographed form by the division of review and analysis of the Committee on Fair Employment Practices. The report points out a number of factors which may affect the position of the Negro as a government employe after the war. The report is based on employment statistics from fifty-seven government agencies and departments, with a total personnel of 2,295,614, as of March 31, 1944. With a sampling that represents 85 percent of the total number of full time government employes reported by the Civil Service Commission for the same date, the study is considered the most comprehensive and accurate survey to date of Negro employment in the federal government. April 1943

Negroes made up 11.9 percent of all federal employes in the fifty-seven government agencies—19.2 percent of those in departmental service, and 11.2 percent of the field service. The report points out, however, that major gains have been in navy shipyards and army munition depots, arsenals and air fields. This means that a disproportionate number of Negroes are "unclassified," and thus are in that part of federal service which will be most drastically curtailed after the war.

The greatest occupational, as well as numerical, gains were made in the war agencies. "However, many of the war agencies will be abolished after the war and others will be sharply reduced in size. This suggests that the postwar classification picture of Negro federal employes as a whole will not be as bright as it is now."

The report shows that Negroes, in comparison with all workers, are disproportionately concentrated in crafts, protective and custodial positions; and in the lower grades of each classification. "There is no doubt that these findings show some discrimination against the Negro; but they also reflect comparative educational levels."

45a-1945

Racial Prejudice Absence Cited

Elizabeth, N.J. Journal

The Urban League sees nothing in industrial relations here at present to indicate Negroes are being laid off along purely racial lines or even disproportionately to the total number in individual plants. 4-5-45

This statement was contained in the report of William M. Ashley, executive secretary, on the work of the organization for the past three months, which was submitted last night to the board of directors at the league office, 645 Elizabeth avenue. Stephen W Waterbury presided.

After outlining the league's efforts to obtain employment in industry for Negroes and to smooth their adjustment into the work of plants where they were not previously accepted, Ashby asserted that the total absence of bitterness or strife concerning Negroes in industry indicates the degree "to which the Nation is growing up in its racial attitudes in industry."

Comparing present conditions with the outbreaks of prejudice and violence which followed the First World War, Ashby said that the change could be attributed to a number of factors, including the sincere desire of Americans to solve the problem, the recognition by unions of the common aims of all workers, willingness of many employers to try to understand Negro workers and encourage them, and the realization by Negroes themselves that an industrial opportunity "must not be lightly toyed with."

The Urban League has set up a job placement department in its office which will begin referring the unemployed to vacancies within a week or two, Ashby's report stated. Concerning employment of Negroes in industry, he said the most significant step was the placement of Negro women at work in the Standard Oil Company, where 'the experiment worked out to the entire satisfaction of the company." 9-5-45

In his report on housing conditions Ashby referred to a letter which he had written to the Elizabeth Daily Journal in protest against an article July 11 released by the Real Estate Board to the effect that adidtional housing for Negroes was not a problem here.

Ashby quoted a study of the New Jersey Association of Housing Authorities, issued last May 1, which stated that 5.855 or about 22 per cent of all dwellings in Elizabeth are substandard. At least 70 per cent of them are occupied by Negro families, he said. Regarding housing for Negroes, Ashby asserted that letters to forty real estate agencies here had brought no results. "Every social agency in the city as well as thousands of individuals who have any acquaintance with the Negro family know how utterly impossible it is for them to find living space," he emphasized. 9-5-45

Admission of the Urban League to the Community Chest and Victory Fund, from whose fall campaign it will receive funds toward its continued activity, was voted by the secretary.

NEW MASSES (NEW YORK CITY)

SEP 4 - 1945

Cutbacks for Negroes

As THE swelling tide of jobless men and women flows out of the factories, what about the Negro worker? During the war Negroes made considerable gains that held the promise of overcoming their submerged position in American economic and political life. The efforts of organized labor and the Negro people themselves, together with the aid given by the Roosevelt administration through the Fair Employment Practice Committee, broke down many of the Jim Crow barriers in employment.

The closing days of the war found 1,500,000 Negroes working in war industries, many employed at jobs requiring special skills and at wage rates that had been previously denied them.

Negroes, who were in most cases the last to be hired, are today, with the sharp curtailment of production, the first to be laid off. Unless special measures are taken, they will also be the last to be rehired after reconversion and will also be downgraded and have their pay cut in greater proportion than whites. This threatened loss of the gains achieved during the war menaces all of us. Karl Marx's wise observation during our Civil War to the effect that labor in a white skin can never be free so long as labor in a black skin is in chains holds good with equal force today.

The struggle against discriminatory treatment of Negroes during the critical reconversion period is therefore a law of self-preservation for the entire labor movement. We believe action is required along three lines:

1. Passage by Congress of the bill for a permanent FEPC, as well as of such measures as the Pepper sixty-five-cent-an-hour minimum wage bill and

New Jersey

for Moscow as much as for Sofia." A policy of intervention to prevent the eradication of fascism violates not only the sovereign right of peoples to create their own democratic institutions but it plants the seed of conflict, in the beginning the quiet almost invisible kind, that finally breaks out into the explosion of war. If Mr. Byrnes does not know that yet, then he must be told in no uncertain terms. Let the thunder of protest against making the Negro the main victim of the reconversion crisis.

SOUND LOGIC FOR ALL

Wetumpka, Ala. Herald

"The Negro Worker," a small magazine published at Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, by the Booker T. Washington Leadership Association, contained an editorial in its latest issue that embodies some truths that white people as well as negroes might ponder over and not forget. S. J. Phillips is founder of this publication which recently celebrated its first anniversary. Phillips once worked with the Negro Chambers County Training School where he established a reputation for hard work and became a credit to his race.

Under the heading "Success Is Earned In Advance," The Negro Worker stated:

"Men don't just succeed; they win their success. You should be surprised if you heard the stories of some men who have made their way from poverty to riches. They had to work hard, suffer long, and endure much before they reached the heights. 7-26-45

"Your foreman didn't just happen to be the foreman. He was in the making years ago when he was working like you are, but at wages much less. He applied himself. He tried to learn. He could be depended upon. He was interested in his work. He always did the best job he could. He earned his success long before he became the foreman of the company.

"The best workman on your job has been learning how to do good work for years. He has made it a habit to do his best at all times. The habit became a part of him. That's why it's so easy for a good workman to do good work.

"You can be a good workman too. You can be as good a workman as your foreman. All you have to do is become interested in what you are doing, do the best you can each day, and in time you will be a success because that is the way it is earned. 7-26-45

"Whatever heights one may reach in life is the result of what he did and how he lived in the past. What we call success is just the payoff for sacrifices and honest work done in advance. . . "

The program of The Negro Worker is stated under the masthead, as follows:

"1. To point out to Negro workers the opportunities of the present and to emphasize their responsibilities to those who have made these opportunities possible.

"2. To impress the Negro worker with the need of doing a full day's work every day.

"3. To encourage habits of industry, thrift, and loyalty as essential in self development and racial advancement, and to stress the need of patriotism, education and religion in character building.

"4. To urge teamwork among Negro workers and their employers to the end that the best interest of both may be served.

"Note: For the carrying out of this program we earnestly seek the full cooperation of the millions of Negroes engaged in industry and agriculture and their employers." 7-26-45

The Negro Worker points out to the Negro race something that can bring them farther along the road to a better way of life that far exceeds anything we have yet heard or read on the subject. Such publications are deserving of the support they ask for such a worthwhile program.—The LaFayette Sun.

N. J. Telephone Company to Hire Negro Operators

Black Dispatch.
Okla. City, Okla.

Qualified Negro girls will be hired as switchboard operatores by the Morristown, New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, it was announced this week by William T. Ruffin, Coordinator of the Morristown Service Council, a National Urban League cooperating agency.

In informing the Council's Employment Committee of the decision, Donald Boice, Business Manager for the Morristown telephone branch, stated: "For several years the New Jersey Bell Telephone Company has offered employment to qualified Negro girls in the clerical forces of the company's organization in many sections of the State. The same opportunity is now being offered to Negro girls who are qualified for the work to become switchboard operators, as vacancies occur in the switchboard operating force." 8-18-45

Coordinator Ruffin disclosed that the Service Council's Employment Committee has followed an active program on minority employment integration into Morristown industries since the Committee was formed several months ago. Arthur C. Gillette, well-known lawyer, is chairman of the Committee, and Reverend Alexander T. White of the Bethel A. M. E. Church is the Council's president.

45a-1945

"South and Parity

9-2 Decision Sets Uniform Haul Charges

Courier Journal

6-20-45

Long-Pending Case Ends With Victory for States East of Rocky Mountains

Louisville, Ky.

By the United Press.

Washington, May 19.—The South and much of the West won a 10 per cent basic freight rate reduction today, thus achieving victory in a long fight to scrap sectional inequalities which they contend have hampered their industrial growth.

At the same time, the East was handed a 10 per cent rate increase.

This action was taken by the Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision that followed six years of investigation. It ordered establishment of a uniform freight classification system for the entire nation and class rate (primarily affecting manufactured goods) readjustments for all states east of the Rocky Mountains. The decision provided: 5-20-45

Increase In Northeast.

1. Temporary class rate reduction of 10 per cent, effective August 30, and between the Southern, Southwestern and Western trunk line territories and between those sections and the Northeastern (Official) territory. At the same time there would be 10 per cent increases in the same rates for the Northeastern territory. These changes will affect the entire country except the Rocky Mountain and Far Western states.

2. A requirement that the railroads notify the I.C.C. within 90 days of their willingness to establish a uniform classification structure for the entire country or leave the assignment to the commission. 5-20-45

3. A scale of class rates for all territory east of the Rocky Mountains when the uniform classification is established.

4. An increase from 55 to 75 cents a hundred pounds of less-than-carload shipments moving at class rates.

Affects Small Proportion.

Most of the country's bulky freight is not carried at class rates, but at special rates fixed by agreement between the railroads and shippers. Thus the decision directly affects a relatively small proportion of the freight moved. 5-20-45

However, it will affect rates on manufactured goods which, Southern and Western interests have complained, enabled factories in the Northeastern and North Central states to undersell manufacturers in other areas.

The I.C.C. said that in the United States as a whole the class rates—which are to be changed August 30—applied to only 4.1 per cent of the shipments and 6.3 per cent of the revenue of railroads. But the basis of complaints against the present system was reflected in figures showing that class rates applied to from 12.3 to 22.5 per cent of the carloads moving from the Northeastern territory into the other sections.

The northeastern (official) territory was described by the commission as the greatest consuming section and the one that all manufacturers want to reach. This area roughly includes the northern band of states west to Lake Michigan and the western boundary of Illinois and north of the Ohio River and a line running through West Virginia and Virginia.

"In shipping to official territory," the I.C.C. said, "manufacturers in the other territories not only have the disadvantage of location, but are subjected to an additional burden in those instances where they must pay class rates on a much higher level than their competitors in Official territory.

"This situation reacts to the disadvantage of manufacturers in the other territories and to the advantage of those in Official territory, tends to restrict the growth and expansion of the manufacturers in the other territories, and, to some extent, to prevent the establishment of new manufacturing plants in those territories." 5-20-45

The I.C.C. said it was clear that the rate structure of Southern, Southwestern and Western trunk line territories had prevented the free movement of traffic at the disputed class rates. It also noted that the railroads and some industries had complained that increases in other rates would be necessary to offset losses in revenue from class rates.

It added that consideration of costs, traffic, distribution of rates and other factors justified the conclusion that the class rates between the outlying territories and the Northeast were "unjust and unreasonable" and were "unduly prejudicial" to those territories and "unduly preferential" to the northeast.

Estimates of when new permanent rates would become effective ranged from one and one-half to two and one-half years.

It was indicated that the permanent rates would be substantially in line with the temporary rates effective August 30.

Faught By Railroads.

Railroads have been unanimous in their opposition to revisions in rate structure, contending that present schedules have evolved over a period of years and have reflected regional circumstances. A. F. Cleveland, vice-president of the Association of American Railroads, said it was "impossible for anyone to guess" what repercussions the decision would have on the carriers.

The I.C.C. action probably will not affect the freight-rate suit pending before the Supreme Court on the complain of Governor Ellis Arnall of Georgia against 20 railroads.

Arnall's suit charges the railroads with violating the anti-trust laws through combined rate-making by rate bureaus.

Was Original Suit. 6-20-45

Arnall filed his complaint with the Supreme Court last fall as an original suit—an unusual procedure—without going first into lower courts. After reviewing the complaint, the court accepted jurisdiction and agreed to consider the suit, specifically on the point as to whether anti-trust violations existed.

In his suit, Arnall asks for both shippers and railroads, and proposed temporary relief below that to which Southern and Western shippers were entitled.

Barnard conceded that the rate differentials may have been too great but said nothing in the record warranted the conclusion that all class rates east of the Rockies should be uniform.

Today's order was based on oral argument heard by the full commission June 14-23, 1944, when the Southern Governors' Conference and numerous Southern public utilities commissions made a final plea for rate parity. For years they have contended that high freight rates hampered manufacturers in the South and prevented new industry from locating there.

Classifying Methods Differ.

At present there are separate structures for the Eastern, Southern and Western sections of the country. Methods of classifying freight for shipment are also different in each section.

The I.C.C. on its own motion initiated a freight rate investigation in 1939 with the idea of setting up a country-wide uniform structure—which it finally ordered today. Extended hearings were held.

At the June, 1944, proceedings, "token" damages for Georgia shippers under the anti-trust laws and a court injunction to restrain the alleged rate-making combination. Originally, his suit asked for damages of $60,000,000, but this was changed later in an amended complaint.

Two Members Dissent.

Today's I.C.C. decision was reached by a 9 to 2 vote with commissioners Claude R. Porter and George M. Barnard dissenting. 5-20-45

Porter charged that the majority ignored the I.C.C. rate-making principles developed over 58 years, ignored the interests of the Southern Governors, the Southern Traffic League, the Southeastern Association of Railroad and Utilities Commissions and representatives of many states in the South and Southwest urged the commission to order rates reduced to a level with those in the North.

The railroads, unanimously opposing any rate changes, were supported by the Governors of New England and other Northeastern states, who argued that the commission should find present rates unlawful before a change could be ordered.

They claimed that industry was already leaving northern locations for the south and that any further migration brought on by freight rate changes would be unfair to Northern industrial workers.

Counsel for the Southern Governors maintained that only those manufacturers who "knew their way around" could get equitable rates and that the Southern railroads were setting themselves up as "overlords dispensing court favors."

Carriers Put Up Fight.

The Governors previously had declared the South to be in a colony-mother country relationship with the East, which drained it of its raw materials and sent back manufactured products at rates so low that Southern industrialists could not meet the competition.

The Southern railroads told the commission that "their very lives" were at stake. They claimed high rates on such products were necessary in order to make up for reduced rates on large quantities of low-grade items originating in the South. Southern roads produced statistics to show that recent industrial growth in the South has been "phenomenal" and in no way retarded by freight rate considerations.

Governors Are Happy Over Rate Victory

Birmingham, Ala., May 19 (AP)—Favorable action by the Interstate Commerce commission on the South's plea for "equalized" freight rates came today a few hours after a committee of Governors of the region was created at a meeting here to press the problem in all of its phases.

The I.C.C decision, received jubilantly throughout the South, will not mean a disbanding of the committee, though doubtless it will result in a redirecton of the group's efforts.

Governor Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma, acting in his capacity as chairman of the Southern Governors Conference, named the committee and directed it to coordinate the South's action in the event appeals were instigated on any I.C.C. order acceptable to the region.

Kerr designated Governor Chauncey Sparks of Alabama as chairman of the committee and named Governors Coke Stevenson of Texas, R. Gregg Cherry of North Carolina, Millard Caldwell of Florida and James H. Davis of Louisiana as members.

SOUTH ACTS TO PROTECT NEW FREIGHT SCHEDULE

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7—(AP)—Southern governors moved today to protect their cherished new freight rate schedule, which they hope will speed Dixie's industrialization, from a Northern attempt to have the schedule nullified.

The Southern Governors' Conference authorized J. V. Norman, Louisville, Ky., chief counsel for Southern states in proceedings before the Interstate Commerce Commission, to intervene in a court action by nine Northern states seeking nullification of the ICC ruling which favored the South.

The conference also continued in existence a steering committee of five governors which was organized in connection with the campaign before the ICC, but which was expected to disband following the commission's action.

Education Also Talked

Looking toward the educational as well as the industrial advancement of their section, the governors received a report recommending that Southern states pool their resources for higher education in order to make the best facilities available to all students.

The report urged a program of planned development of facilities on a regional basis, since no one state was held financially capable of caring for all types of educational needs alone. The program would include various forms of mutual aid whereby a student from one cooperating state could go cheaply to another for courses not available in his home state.

The freight rate schedules which Northern states are attacking will go into effect Jan. 1, barring adverse court action. They call for reductions of 10 per cent in rates for various manufactured articles moving with Southern and Western territory, or between those sections and the industrialized North and East. Rates for such goods moving within the North and East are increased 10 per cent.

North Opposes Rate

Nine Northern states have joined in a petition to the Federal Court for the Northern District of New York, asking that the ICC be enjoined from putting its ruling into effect. The states are New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Norman would file intervenors' petitions on behalf of the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

45a-1945

South and Parity

Happy Southland Hails Rate Parity As Expansion Boon

Atlanta Constitution
5-21-45

WASHINGTON, May 20.—(AP)—The South's political leaders jubilated today over the successful end of their long fight for "parity" in the class rates which are the base framework of the freight rate structure. They viewed a far-reaching Interstate Commerce Commission decision as removing "a domestic tariff wall" against the South and the west, and predicted it would pave the way for greater industrial development. Spokesmen for those areas long have contended that higher class rates have put their manufacturing enterprises at a disadvantage in competition with the east.

Winding up an investigation which it launched in July, 1939, the ICC yesterday ordered a complete overhauling of the present jigsaw "class" rate structure and pending this: 5-21-45

1. A 10 per cent rate reduction in all parts of the country except in the east and far west, effective Aug. 30

2. A 10 per cent rate increase in the east, effective at the same time.

Rates will remain unchanged west of the Rocky mountains, where no petition for revision was filed.

SEEKS UNIFORMITY

However, the commission also ordered nationwide application, covering the far west too, of a uniform classification system, so that an article will fall in the same rate category no matter where it is shipped. Under the present setup, for instance, a typewriter might fall in a high-rate class in one part of the country, a lower and less costly rate in another section, and still a third rate if it moved from one territory to the other.

The commission conceded this change will be a long and tedious task, possibly taking years.

The temporary rate adjustment, the ICC said, will greatly reduce the difference in the levels of the class rates in the various territories, and bring to a minimum the "undue prejudice" which it found to exist. 5-21-45

When the job is finally done, much of the present complexity will be removed from the class rate structure, though there still will be numerous exceptions.

In general the move is toward eventual uniform freight rates based on mileage.

A GREAT VICTORY

What it all means in dollars and cents no one could say today, but the south's spokesmen called it a "great victory."

Only class rates which from the standpoint of traffic tonnage are the least important of the different kinds of rates, were involved in the proceeding.

The great preponderance of all freight moves on commodity rates. Grain and coal are examples. These are specially established charges for particular materials or articles, or related groups, for a specified haul.

In addition to class and commodity rates, there are "exception rates." Truck competition in recent years has accelerated the establishment of exception and commodity rates, even on less-than-carloads. 5-21-45

The ICC made a study of all carload traffic transported on Sept. 23, 1942, and found that 4.1 per cent moved on class rates, 10.7 on exception rates, and 85.2 on commodity rates.

CLASS RATE QUESTION

Another study, covering the year 1941, showed that less-carload traffic in official (east) territory accounted for $150,263,282 in revenue, $55,899,927 in the southern region, and $100,678,278 in the western territory.

The commission said, however, that it could not be assumed all this traffic moved on class rates "because much less-carload traffic moves on rates other than class rates, particularly in southern territory."

But assuming that this traffic moved on class rates, 10 per cent lower rates would have reduced the south's freight bill by $5,589,992, the western district's bill by $10,067,827, while a 10 per cent increase would have boosted the east's bill by $15,026,328.

Cost studies, the ICC said, show "little significant difference in the cost of furnishing transportation in the south as compared with the east. Railroads, and eastern interests, have agreed that on a ton-mile basis it costs more to haul freight in less populous areas.

The Southern Governors' Conference summed up its position in one word: "Parity."

The Southern States Industrial Council, composed of major manufacturing interests in 13 states, took a different view, however. The council argued against "widespread changes that will affect adversely the south's present industrial economy, the growth and development of which is said to have been fostered by the basic commodity rate structure."

PARITY ESSENTIAL

The governors' conference and other southern proponents of class rate uniformity argued that the southern class rate structure has retarded industrial development in that area; that whatever development has occurred has been largely in primary industries, and that rate parity with the east is essential to stimulate greater industrial development in the south.

Eastern interests have contended the south already has an advantage in certain commodity rates. 5-21-45

While the mountain-Pacific territory was not directly involved in the lengthy hearings, the ICC said establishment of uniform classifications "will necessarily make changes in the measure of the class rates on certain articles within, and to and from, mountain-Pacific territory."

The railroads opposed complete classification uniformity as "impracticable." They argued that commercial conditions would be disturbed by precipitate changes and that their revenues would be seriously affected.

The ICC proceeding is completely apart from a suit filed in the supreme court by Gov. Arnall, of Georgia, against the railroads, charging monopolistic tactics in the fixing of rates.

Arnall said in advance of the ICC decision that the court action would be pressed "to complete the job of freeing the transportation system of America."

Rate Parity Is Favored By Truman

The Montgomery advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

President Voices Stand For Rate Equalization In All Parts Of U. S.

South Maps Fight

Southern Governors Plan To Intervene In North's Suit To Nullify Slash

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—(AP)—President Truman said today he favored an equalization of the freight rate structure.

He told his press conference that he had spent much of his time as a senator fighting for a rate structure on freight movement fair to all sections and that he still felt the same way about it.

He made this comment then asked about pending litigation growing out of the Interstate Commerce Commission decree of early this year calling for rate adjustments. 12-8-45

The questioning reporter asked the President if he would make "any comment on the northern governors' suit to set aside the ICC freight rate decision."

Mr. Truman asked if that was the one that breaks up the combinations. The questioner replied that he meant "the suit that involves the class rate ruling of the ICC rather than the anti-trust act."

The President said he was not familiar with the suit but that he wanted a freight rate structure in this country that is fair to every section of it.

He doesn't like, he said, the structure that has been in effect in the country with different brands of territory rates in different parts of the United States.

He concluded that he had spent most of his time in the Senate trying to break this.

South Moves To Keep New Rate Schedule

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7.—(AP)—Southern governors moved today to protect their cherished new freight rate schedule, which they hope will speed Dixie's industrialization, from a northern attempt to have the schedule nullified.

The Southern Governors' Conference authorized J. V. Norman of Louisville, Ky., chief counsel for Southern States in proceedings before the Interstate Commerce Commission, to intervene in a court action by nine Northern States seeking nullification of the ICC ruling which favored the South. 12-18-45

The conference also continued in existence a steering committee of five governors which was organized in connection with the campaign before the ICC, but which was expected to disband following the commission's action.

Education Pool Urged

Looking toward the educational as well as the industrial advancement of their section, the governors received a report recommending that Southern States pool their resources for higher education in order to make the best facilities available to all students.

The report urged a program of planned development of facilities on a regional basis, since no one State was held financially capable of caring for all types of educational needs alone. The program would include various forms of mutual aid whereby a student from one cooperating State could go cheaply to another for courses not available in his home State.

The freight rate schedules which Northern States are attacking will go into effect Jan. 1, barring adverse court action. They call for reductions of ten per cent in rates for various manufactured articles moving within Southern and Western territory, or between those sections and the industrialized North and East. Rates for such goods moving within the North and East are increased ten per cent.

North Attacks Schedule

Nine Northern States have joined in a petition to the Federal Court for the northern district of New York, asking that the ICC be enjoined from putting its ruling into effect. The States are New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Norman would file intervenors' petitions on behalf of the Carolinas, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The conference committee on the freight rate case includes Governors Chauncey Sparks of Alabama, chairman; James H. Davis of Louisiana, Robert G. Cherry of North Carolina, Millard F. Caldwell of Florida, and a fifth member. Governor Coke Stevenson of Texas, who has been on the committee, was dropped because his state lies outside the territory immediately concerned.

Norman told the governors that the New England states and some

Western railroads were expected to file petitions supporting the nine Northern states. Governor Robert S. K r of Oklahoma, chairman of the conference, said it was expected most Western and Southwestern states would intervene with the Southern states on the side of the ICC.

Norman Sees Victory

Norman declared he was "never more confident" of winning a case than this one, and said "the ICC lawyers feel the same way."

"The Supreme Court," he said, "has said repeatedly that a federal court can set aside an ICC ruling only if it is not supported by substantial evidence, or if the ICC has misinterpreted or misapplied the l. w.

"The finding that existing rates were unreasonable and discriminatory was based on evidence which included 5,000 pages of testimony and 233 exhibits. That seems to be substantial evidence.

"The Interstate Commerce act specifically says that the ICC may prescribe minimum and maximum rates when it finds existing rates unreasonable or discriminatory. The law can't be any plainer than that."

Sparks Chairman

Governor Sparks was chairman also of the committee which submitted the educational report. Serving with him were Governor Thomas L. Bailey of Mississippi and Colgate W. Darden, Jr., of Virginia.

The committee pointed out that in 1940 the states composing the conference "had slightly more than one-fourth of the total population of the United States but less than one-sixth of the institutions offering Ph.D. degrees. Moreover, the areas in which states in the conference offered doctorate degrees were extremely limited in comparison with selections available in other states. None of the conference states had then, nor does it have now, within its borders any educational institution granting a Ph.D. degree to negroes."

The states also fail to compare favorably in opportunities for specialized studies at both graduate and undergraduate levels for both whites and negroes, the report said.

Immediate suggestions set forth in the report were: A survey of educational needs within each state, and collaboration of states in long-range planning for development of facilities on a regional basis; contracts among states or institutions granting equal facilities to students of all contracting states at costs no higher than they would incur by attending school in their own states; scholarships to allow students to go outside their states for courses not available nearer home; and appropriation of funds to implement the other suggestions.

45a-1945

South and Parity

SHIPPERS IN SOUTH, WEST WIN FREIGHT RATE PARITY; OLD SCALE 'UNREASONABLE'

New York Times

ICC GIVES RULING

Rate Cut of 10 Per Cent Is Ordered for Lines in the Two Areas

5-20-45

CHARGES IN EAST UP 10%

Changes, Effective Aug. 30, Set to Permit Roads to File Uniform Schedules

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, May 19—Present railroad freight classifications were held to be "unreasonable and unduly prejudicial" by the Interstate Commerce Commission today in a report which allowed the carriers ninety days in which to submit to it their proposals to undertake a uniform method of freight classification for the entire country.

5-20-45

In the interim, and as a temporary measure of relief, the ICC ruled that, effective Aug. 30, all of the present class rates in and between the following territories be reduced by 10 per cent, pending the establishment of a uniform classification:

In and between southern, western trunk-line, and southwestern territories and between those territories, on the one hand, and eastern territory on the other.

Rise in East Ordered

The present structure of class rates within official (eastern) territory was ordered increased 10 per cent, on the same temporary basis.

"This will greatly reduce the differences in the levels of the class rates in the various class-rate territories, and will bring to a minimum the undue prejudice," the commission observed.

The ICC also increased the minimum charges on less-than-carload shipments moving at class rates from 55 to 75 cents per hundred pounds.

5-20-45

As a measure of permanent relief, a scale of class rates applying uniformly to the entire country with the exception of mountain-Pacific territory was prescribed by the commission "as reasonable for application in connection with the uniform freight classification to be established."

The commission's decision was reached by a vote of 9 to 2, with Commissioners Claude R. Porter and George M. Barnard dissenting, and Commissioners Charles D. Mahaffie and William J. Patterson concurring in part. It was arrived at on May 15.

Protests Are Long Standing

The ICC action was the result of investigations concerning railroad classification of freight in all parts of the country and the class rates of all common rail carriers subject to the Interstate Commerce Act, except in the mountain-Pacific territory. The investigations were carried out in cooperation with the States.

In the background is long-standing complaint by the South that the railroad freight structure was set up in a way to discriminate against it, in comparison with the rates in application in other parts of the country.

The State of Georgia had brought action to the Supreme Court to gain revisions in the prevailing rates.

5-20-45

Interests from other parts of the country, particularly from the West, joined with the South in seeking the elimination of territorial divisions in which various rate differentials were allowed and the establishment of a uniform rate structure.

A highlight of the 294-page report by the commission was the following:

"Appropriate to the breadth and variety of the interests involved in this proceeding, the record has not been narrowly restricted to rate comparisons and the competitive and other effects of rates upon particular industries or individual shippers, but has been developed within a sufficiently broad perspective to consider all the essential circumstances and conditions which affect the welfare of carriers, of producers, shippers and consumers, and of localities, districts, regions and territories.

Costs of Service Studied

5-20-45

"More specifically, costs of service has been explored and analyzed more comparatively and thoroughly than in any other similar investigation.

"Studies and analyses have also been made of the natural resources of the areas concerned and of the growth and development of these areas in terms of agricultural, forest and mineral production, manufacturing and distribution of population. Other analyses have dealt with the composition and movement of traffic and with employment, labor and income."

The report also said:

"Principal argument against a uniform level of class rates in the rate-making territories here under consideration is that the consists of traffic in the several territories, particularly in Southern, Southwestern and Western trunk-line, as compared to official, are so substantially dissimilar and variant that separate schemes of rates with different distributions of the general rate burden as between commodities and classes of traffic must prevail; and that, because of the greater percentage of high-grade traffic moving in official territory, a lower and different system of class rates is justified in that territory than in others.

"These contentions and the evidence relied upon to support them have heretofore been discussed. It is only necessary here to state our final conclusions.

5-20-45

Variations in Traffic

"When analyzed in detail there are many more differences in the consists of traffic in these respective territories than when basic commodity groups, such as those used by us in the compilation of traffic statistics, are considered.

"Mere differences in the nomenclature or commercial characteristics of commodities, however, are of little significance in the determination of this question. The problem is primarily one of providing adequate revenues for the carriers from the trffic which they transport.

"It is clear that the method of distribution of the rate burden between types of traffic now observed in Southern, Southwestern and Western trunk line territories has resulted in rates so high that they have prevented the free movement of traffic at the rates in issue."

Tenth of Freight Affected

WASHINGTON, May 19 (U.P.)—The Interstate Commerce Commission today answered long-standing complaints against Southern and Western freight rates by ordering 10 per cent cuts in the basic rates for those areas and a 10 per cent increase in the East.

The changes, pending the preparation of a uniform rate classification system for the country, apply to so-called "classified" freight—largely manufactured goods and miscellaneous goods. These constitute about 10 per cent of the total freight traffic. Commodities which constitute the bulk of traffic, such as grain, coal, oil and other raw materials, move largely under special bulk rates not affected by this decision.

A scale of rates was set by the ICC to apply to the classification when it is established. The new system will not differ substantially from the temporary rates.

The decision was issued as an answer to long-standing sectional complaints that the rate differentials were an insurmountable barrier to economic development of the south and west. Spokesman for the South and West have protested that the eastern rate territory was able to undersell manufacturers in the other area because of the inequalities.

Some Southern and Western shippers of bulk commodities have been content with the present structure because their shipments could be sent at low rates set in agreements between the shippers and railroads. Manufactured articles, however, have been shipped under a basic schedule having a single mileage rate applied character.

Freight Rate Decision Praised and Condemned

Courier-Journal

Rival Attorneys In Louisville Disagree On Effect of Cuts; Willis Is Silent

5-20-45

Decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday calling for uniform freight class rate classifications was termed by J. Van Dyke Norman, Louisville attorney who represented the Southern Governors' Conference in the rate hearings concluded last June, as "a sweeping victory for th South."

Another Louisville attorney, W. L. Grubbs, who represented the 17 Southern railroads in opposing the rate change, said he was "very much surprised" at the I.C.C. decision, adding: "The railroads contended that class rates are only one phase of the freight rate structure. When you take into account the whole rate picture, the differential is a fair and reasonable basis of class rates."

J. B. Hill, president of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, declined to comment on the I.C.C. decision except to say that the differential of North and South rates amounted to only 5 or 6 per cent instead of the 39 per cent as contended by the Southern Governors Conference. Hill said the increased cost "is justified in the South because the traffic is thinner."

Louisiana Governor Happy.

Louisiana's Governor James H. Davis, visiting in Louisville, said the decision "will be a good thing for the whole nation" and that he thought it was "the right thing to do." Governor Davis said Louisiana has taken an active part in urging action on the rate question, either by the I.C.C. or the United States Supreme Court.

Governor Simeon Willis, who accompanied the Louisiana Governor on his tour of the Louisville area, said he would make no comment until he had read the text of the commission's decision. Willis added that Kentucky has been primarily engaged "in regional freight rate matters but a uniform rate scale would automatically end such discussions."

'New Rates Not Panacea.'

"The new freight rates are not a panacea for all the ills of the South," Norman declared, "but they mean that industry eventually can develop in the South on a par with the North."

He added that the South has everything conducive to manufacturing — climate, natural resources and labor—but "prohibitive freight rates have scared away industrialists."

"I believe that the uniform rate will even be a boon to Southern railroads within a very few years," he asserted. "The immediate effect may be a small loss of revenue for them but increased business will more than make that up."

Grubbs said the "vast majority" of railroad freight was carried on commodity rates which do not have the differences between North and South as do class rates.

5-20-45

Norman's Arguments Adopted.

The I.C.C. decision adopted many arguments stated last June by Norman. Norman had asked the commission to establish uniform rates for territory east of the Mississippi. Another group requested the territory east of the Rocky Mountains be included under the same scale.

"I was very much surprised that the western group won their case," Norman said. The 67-year-old native Kentuckian is recognized as one of the nation's outstanding freight rate attorneys. He has appeared before federal commissions and the United States Supreme Court in numerous cases since 1913.

Norman became counsel for the Southern Governors Conference in 1939. The conference represents eight Southern Governors—Kentucky not included.

45a-1945

South and Parity

THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES

Birmingham Age

We must take the whine and minus sign out of the South.

Or, as that fine states rights liberal, J. M. Broughton, of North Carolina, put it in a contribution to this column last Fall, "we must substitute the work shirt for the hair shirt." On both sides of many a political and economic fence Southerners are coming to see this now. There's rough travel ahead but in the distance are more promises for the South than for any other part of this land. And most of the promises depend on ourselves, on our science, our hard work, our character, taste and forward-looking. And on our backward-looking, too, in the sense of holding to lessons learned and blessed things that are blessed still.

5-23-45

In a notable address to the Charlotte, N. C., Rotary Club the other day Vice President E. R. Oliver, of the Southern Railway System, spoke against the "technique" of those who seek applause by mounting "housetops and loudly echoing the anguish of Reconstruction Days." All unwittingly I suspect, Mr. Oliver came near to a famous New Dealer's statement when he quoted Job 3:25—"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me." His point for the South is the point the great New Dealer made for the nation, that "all we have to fear is fear itself." And whining, itself, and minus-signing, and hair-shirting, and general viewing with alarm.

* * *

Himself a Southerner, Mr. Oliver represents a railroad whose hope of life to come is in building the South. And his belief in building to be comes in part of his sense of building done. Running through the economic history of this century, he showed vast achievements and improvements come to the South. The cotton textile industry has moved here. The furniture industry is moving, so is the pulp and paper. Rayon has come, a great chemical industry, plastics, manifold iron and steel production. Ninety per cent of the nation's tobacco manufacturing now takes place in the South——it was only 30 in 1900. Waterpower, minerals, forest products—looking at these and a hundred other assets Mr. Oliver wonders how we can "welcome tomorrow with other than confidence and high hope."

* * *

He didn't go into unhappy aspects of the cotton farming which engages half the 3,000,000 families. He didn't speak of tenants, sharecroppers, hookworm, pellagra and the like. But that surely was because he knows how often and completely these have been pointed out. His point is against letting them get us down any more in a sense of pessimism, self-pity and poor-heartedness.

* * *

Against those things a development many of us fear may be happiest of all. The march of time is en route to a revolution in the cotton economy under which we have lived all our Southern life. No matter what any of us wish, plan or legislate, a day is coming when cotton must face the world on its own merits, at its own competitive price, in its own virtue and denomination. That will mean great dislocation. It will mean that many who are cotton farmers now will be something else, and that many places where cotton is growing now will "know it no more." It will mean machinery taking the place of hand-labor, bigger-farming supplanting little, and much transfer from farm to factory.

5-23-45

It will mean even more transfer from farm to service occupations and that is something important to have in mind. "Factories can't employ everybody," as a writer pointed out recently in the Atlantic Monthly. And neither can farms employ everybody, as needs equal pointing out. But the great point is that these machines and this technology which will be putting men out of farm and factory work are going to make for such new wealth in general that there will be all sorts of new jobs outside. There'll be more teachers, more doctors, beauty parlors, railroad conductors, gasoline filling stations, vice presidents, jewelers, booksellers, gardeners, haberdashers, department stores, painters, scrubwomen, bankers, professional athletes, newspaper reporters and (let us pray) preachers.

* * *

King Cotton isn't dead, or dying either. He can get his foreign markets back and save his markets at home if he lives right, if his production costs are radically lowered (as they can be) to permit radically lowered prices. When that comes there will be a new cotton prosperity in the South, not engaging nearly so many of us in cotton farming, but prospering us all as a result of prosperity for those who are engaged. Especially if the exodus from cotton stimulates all the other developed and developing economies Mr. Oliver mentions.

5-23-45

Many are the hearts that rejoice with Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Seibels here that their son, Howard Kelly Seibels, after being reported missing, has been liberated from a German prison camp and has sent his parents word he is "well and fit." The Seibels family is so known and loved here that its anxieties and long waitings have made the more poignant for us the similar experiences of so many others. This boy's maternal grandfather, Dr. Howard Kelly, of Johns Hopkins, was one of the great four of American medicine.

45a-1945

The South

Southern Governors Convene To Discuss Industrializing South

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 7—(AP)—Governors of Southern states convened here today to discuss Dixie's problems, with a warning from their chairman that "the South must industrialize or face a continuing decrease of population."

Gov. Robert S. Kerr, of Oklahoma, in an address prepared for delivery to the Southern Governors' Conference which he heads, declared that "no other similar area . . . throughout history has had such combined economic and financial power as that which the South holds" today.

The Oklahoman warned, however, that the South could not depend upon agriculture alone for its prosperity.

"We are now producing more agricultural products than ever before but we are employing the smallest number of farm workers in our history. This has come about through mechanized and scientific farming.

12-7-45

* * *

"AND THE TEMPO of mechanization is . . . on the increase. Either we will develop industry to employ our people, or we will see economic necessity compelling them to move elsewhere where opportunity for industrial development is available."

The South's "great armada of economic forces," Gov. Kerr said, "includes favorable climate, raw products of great variety, high quality, and unlimited quantity. We have demonstrated that our people can become as skilled and efficient workers in as short a time as any in the world, and many of them are. We have these reserves of skilled labor, and of ample capital of our own for the first time in our history."

Also on today's program were an address by J. W. Wadsworth, deputy administrator of the National War Surplus Property Administration; a report by J. U. Norman, of Louisville, Ky., chief counsel of the conference in the Southern fight for freight rate equality; and a report by Gov. Chauncey Sparks of Alabama, chairman of the committee on regional education.

* * *

GOV. SIMEON WILLIS of Kentucky, the only Republican in the conference, responded to the welcoming addresses by Mayor S. Maestri of New Orleans and Gov. James H. Davis of Louisiana.

The Oklahoma governor told his colleagues that the South had won "certain phases of the long and bitter struggle to achieve equality of freight rates," and was "in the process of winning a complete victory."

12-7-45

"We will be wise to consolidate our gains," he said, "and then we must with boldness, courage and daring, help to launch a program of building ever greater industrial capacity to take advantage of this freight rate equality so dearly won.

"Our states have certain priority rights in connection with war plants that have been, or will be declared surplus. The most effective increase in the per capita income that we have ever known in the South has resulted through the operation of government-owned or government-promoted war industry. If we are alert and aggressive we can hold this industrial capacity we have, and if we hold what we have we can add to and increase it. . . .

* * *

"THERE ARE MANY, no doubt, in the South today who feel a fear in their hearts as they look into the future. We remember the reconstruction after the Civil War. We remember the boom and recurring depression after World War I. But things are different today."

12-7-45

Besides listing the climate, resources, labor and other factors making for economic opportunity in the South, Gov. Kerr said:

"Finally, we have access to the markets of the world. Our good neighbors, Mexico, Central and South America, and the island republics, are at our very door. We are closer to Africa than is any other part of the nation. We are far closer to Asia than the industrial North and East. We are also closer than they to Australia, New Zealand and the islands of the Pacific."

ALL-COLORED STAFF, UNITED STATES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE—Shown above is the all-colored staff of the United States Employment Service. They are (left to right) front row John R. Smith, Mrs. Juanita Lyons, William Shell (Minority Placement Specialist, Dept. of Labor); Capt. Edward J. Bryson (Instructor); Milton J. White (Manager); Miss Thelma Beavers, Fred Dorsey; back row: Joseph Grigsby, William Sullivan, Courtlandt Greene, Mrs. Faustine Sherard, Thomas Massey, G. W. Johnson, G. F. R. Key; (inset) Lawrence Williams.

Thirteen Employed As Staff

The Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Georgia

Personnel With U.S.E.S.

11-4-45

Milton White Manages Group At Atlanta Office

By RUTH L. CORNELIUS

Monday, October 29, marked a new era for Negroes in Atlanta. It was on that day that 13 Negroes took over duties as staff personnel in the local office of United States Employment Service, Frank A. Dolan, manager on Marietta Street.

The members of the staff were trained for two weeks for their special duties under Captain Edward J. Bryson who is now Field Supervisor for U. S. E. S. According to Mr. Dolan the members of the staff have grasped the techniques of procedure well, and he feels confident that they will do a good job.

WHITE MANAGES GROUP

Previous to the two-week training period for their respective duties the members of the staff were rich in training and experience. Milton J. White, manager of the Colored Division is a graduate of Morehouse College. He was employed as interviewer for Bell Aircraft Corporation during the war period.

There are two senior interviewers G. W. Johnson, senior interviewer in charge of placement, is a graduate of Amherst College. Senior Interviewer Lawrence Williams is a former student of Morris Brown College where he completed his theology. He is in charge of registration.

The four employment interviewers, responsible for registration and placement, Thomas Massey and Courtlandt Greene, Morehouse; Joseph Grigsby, Fisk; G. F. R. Key Howard University, who is a former employe of Fulton County Department of Public Welfare.

There are three women who are working in the capacities of receptionists and clerks in the program Miss Thelma Beavers Morris Brown Mrs. Juanita Lyons, Reid's Business College, Mrs. Faustine Sherard, Lewis Business College, Detroit.

OFFERS JOBS

Veterans' section is manned by John R. Smith, Morris Brown and William Sullivan, Morehouse.

This section served by the all-colored staff is not a Claims division. It has as its duty the offering of jobs and the furnishing applicants with blanks for unemployment compensation benefits.

Cooperation of patrons at all times will greaty facilitate the individual and the over-all work of the staff.

Los Angeles places 40,772 Negroes in '44 through USES

Los Angeles Tribune 3-12-45

Of the 2,000,000 non-white workers placed throughout the nation during 1944 by the United States Employment Service, 40,772 were accounted for by the three Los Angeles offices.

"Negro workers are an essential part of local industry," stated C. M. Von Dietz, field supervisor, in making the announcement. "Twenty-three per cent of the total placements for our offices here in Los Angeles are colored people. They represent approximately 326,000 man hours of work every day. Negroes may well be proud of their contribution to production for victory." 3-12-45

For a more specific picture of what Negro workers are doing, Von Dietz broke the total figure down into the more important industrial groups: 5,938 work in food handling and processing; 6,254 in wholesale and retail trade, and 3,380 in the various service occupations such as hotel and laundry work. In the currently critical rubber industry, there are 1,526 non-whites; in shipbuilding and repair, 3,596, and in the manufacture of aircraft and aircraft parts, 3,109. 3-12-45

"You will find the Negro worker making good in practically every occupation you can mention," Von Dietz pointed out. "He is taking his full share of responsibility for increasing war production, but for those still engaged in less essential industry, there is an important war job waiting at their nearest USES office."

45b-1945

U.S. Places 1,900,000 Non-Whites In New Jobs

D.C.

Chicago Defender Ill.

1-20-45

WASHINGTON — More than 1,900,000 job placements of non-white workers were made by the United States Employment Service of the War Manpower Commission during the first 11 months of 1944, according to the WMC.

This constituted a two per cent increase over the corresponding period in 1943.

Non-white placements in the 11-month period amounted to 18 per cent of total placements, WMC pointed out. Nearly 75 per cent of total placements in private households were non-white, while more than 54 per cent of total placements in the tobacco manufacturing industry were non-white.

Although non-white job placements declined from a peak of 238,696 in August to 184,933 in November, the total placement decline was proportionately higher, WMC officials pointed out.

A break-down by industries of non-white placements during the 11-month period, including percentage of the total placements, follows:

1-20-45

Forestry and fishing, 263; mining, 7,875; contract construction, 142,289; total manufacturing, 870,913; ordnance and accessories, 74,817; food and kindred products, 122,514; tobacco manufacturers, 21,558; textile mill products, 24,634; apparel and related products, 35,554; lumber and timber basic prod., 23,998; furn. and fin. lumber prod., 26,259; paper and allied prod., 26,035; printing, publ. and allied, 5,280; chemicals, 52,575; products of pet. and coal, 11,450; rubber products, 18,891; leather and its products, 5,332; stone, clay, and glass prod., 14,588; iron and steel and their prod., 109,482; railroad equipment, 4,765; aircraft and parts, 48,922; ship and boat building and rep., 126,419; other trans. equipment, 400.

Nonferrous metals and prod., 31,582; electrical machinery, 28,289; metalworking mach., 5,092; other mach., 27,725; autos and auto equipment, 13,853; miscellaneous manufacturing, 10,899; transportation, communication, and other public utilities, 119,941; wholesale and retail trade, 198,155; finance, insurance, and real estate, 10,286; service except pvt. household, 152,622; private households, 307,379; regular government estab., 92,388; special government projects, 982; establishments, not elsewhere classified, 2,111.

45b-1945

General

SURVEY SHOWS RACE TROUBLE INEVITABLE IN AMERICA UNLESS ACTION TAKEN FOR EMPLOYMENT

Black Dispatch 3-10-45

Okla City

Many to Be Laid Off After the War But Do Not Plan to Return to Former Homes

NO PLANS MADE TO AVERT RACIAL STRIFE

3-10-45

CHICAGO.—(ANP)—America can expect serious interracial clashes in many major communities unless immediate and effective planning for post-war employment is undertaken, Alexander Liveright, executive director of the American Council of Race Relations, stated Monday, following a survey of Pacific coast and midwestern communities.

The survey, conducted on the west coast by Mr. Liveright and in the midwest by Dr. Robert C. Weaver, community services director, reveals that actual plans to fight race tensions have not developed beyond those existing in Warld War I when there followed a wave of race riots. However, there is more interest today among all sections of the population, including government, but definite plans need to be formulated, it was pointed out.

Present efforts to achieve better racial and religious relations will prove futile, warned lLveright and Weaver, unless employment levels are maintained at a rate much higher than before the war. They point to the fact that the employment patterns developed during the war have tended to concentrate minority groups, and especially Negroes, in those plants most likely to be drastically cut back; in occupations offering the least opportunity for learning marketable skills; and in geographical areas most likely to be seriously affected by reconversion lags or the absence of sizeable peace-time industry.

3-10-45

Citing Portland, Ore., as an example, Liveright explained that 75,000 to 90,000 persons, or more than 50 per cent of the pre-war working population, will be laid off as a result of cut-backs in ship building. Of this number, close to 10,000 are Negroes. Some 2,000 Negroes have been more or less steadily employed in stable, or non-war industries. The belief of Portland's pre-war residents that the war workers will go back to their original homes is refuted by surveys which reveal that 65 per cent of all in-migrants plan to stay where they are after the war. Complicating the picture is the fact that 15,000 out of oPrtland's 20,000 Negroes live in the temporary war-housing project of Vanport.

Portland is also the only west coast community in which anti-Catholic feeling has developed to serious proportions. So-called "Mantle Clubs" were formed among city and school employees to prevent Catholics—and Jews—from obtaining city jobs or promotions.

The community is doing little or nothing to face these problems, although the prospect of avoiding racial clashes bred by such insecurity is obviously not favorable. Against this ominous over-all picture is a small group of citizens, representing industry, labor and local organizations, who are attempting to arouse the community to tackle the problem constructively.

Although the Portland situation is the most serious in proportion to its pre-war population, it is not unique. A similar program exists in Seattle and Bremerton, where the Negro population has increased from 3,789 in 1940 to an estimated 14,000 to 16,000. In Seattle, however, an attempt is being made to meet the problem through an official Seattle Civic Unity committee appointed bp Mayor William T. Devin.

3-10-45

San Francisco and Los Angeles also face major problems with respect to reconversion and its effect on race relations. In both communities Negro workers are concentrated in the purely war industries; shipbuilding in San Francisco and aircraft and shipbuilding in Los Angeles. Although the mayors of both communities have taken cognizance of the problem and although citizens' groups have been formed to develop programs for bringing about more effective unity, blueprints for widespread post-war employment are lacking in both areas. Problems in California are complicated by the severe tension and friction already apparent in the smaller communities surrounding San Francisco and Los Angeles in which the majority of the war workers are housed. Vallejo and Richmond present the most immediately explosive prospects. In rural areas the problem is complicated by growing organized opposition to relocation of the Japanese.

3-10-45

Not only is the insecurity of both white and Negro workers and their fears for the future not being allayed by local and state actions, but in almost all states on the west coast legislation is being proposed which will severely threaten what little security they now have. For example, groups in almost all states are now attempting to increase residence requirements for state aid. If these attempts are successful, most war workers in these states will be ineligible for relief or state benefits.

10,000 Fired In War Plants In 4 Midwest Cities

Chicago Defender

6-9-45

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON. — The grim spectre of unemployment haunted Negro communities as the first drastic cutbacks in war plants brought layoffs to an estimated 10,000 colored workers in a single week in four Midwest cities.

In Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, and Indianapolis, termination of army contracts, most of them with aircraft plants, ended war jobs Negroes had held since shortly after the beginning of the war.

The Allison division of the General Motors Corp., at Indianapolis announced that 5,000 workers would be laid off in June and July. This order affects approximately 400 colored workers. About 1,200 Negroes were employed at one time in the five Allison plants, it is estimated.

6-9-45

In Chicago at the Pressed Steel Car Co., makers of armored tanks, 1,800 workers were released Saturday, half of the total number scheduled to go by June 30. Cancellation of army contracts at Pressed Steel affects about 1.000 colored workers, union officials reported.

Last week at the Chicago Studebaker plant, 200 colored workers were laid off as the plant closed down. The plant manufactured parts for aircraft engines.

Other Negro war workers scheduled to go included:

500—Curtiss-Wright Corp., of St. Louis.

4,000—Ford Willow Run, Detroit.

10 per cent of Negroes employed, Packard Co., Detroit.

All persons hired since 1943—Murray Co., Detroit.

The aircraft industry, one of those in which Negroes have made the biggest wartime gains, was hardest hit by initial cutbacks. Adding to the dismal picture facing jobless Negro war workers is the indication in at least two cities, Chicago and St. Louis, that they are not being offered new jobs at their former level of skill or rate of pay.

6-9-45

Negro labor authorities in St. Louis feel the cutbacks will result in a serious labor condition for Negroes, in spite of assurances by U. S. Employment Service spokesmen that 14,000 workers are needed at once in other St. Louis war plants.

Available jobs in Chicago war plants, said to number several thousands, are regarded by labor spokesmen there as being unacceptable to skilled workers who have been making more money than these jobs offer.

6-9-45

Negroes Lack Seniority

In the plants which have been forced to release workers, the United Auto Workers, CIO, has made certain that layoffs were made according to that union's policy regarding seniority. However, most Negro workers succeeded in breaking into war industries only after the war effort was well underway (1942 and 1943) at a time when manpower was scarce. Because they lack seniority, they are slated to be laid off first.

Lack of planning by management and government was blamed this week for the dilemma facing jobless war workers. Joseph Mattson, regional director of the United Auto Workers, CIO, the union which represents workers at the Pressed Steel Car Co., Studebaker, Buick and Ford plants in Chicago, criticized the sudden cancellation of war contracts without adequate planning for continued employment for the workers laid off.

CHICAGO, ILL. SUNDAY SUN
MAY 27, 1945

Reconversion and the Negro

ALREADY PLANS are in the hopper for the initiation of gradual reconversion by mid-Summer. The automotive industry hopes to have its "postwar" models rolling off the assembly lines in sizable quantities shortly thereafter.

Now that we have a one front war, military manufacture will possibly decline about a third. This will mean that pending the reconversion period's full swing, an estimated 2½ to 5 million persons will be in the ranks of the unemployed.

This estimate is independent of 1½ to 2 million returning service men who will seek employment.

The Negro worker, as always, will find himself in an unenviable position as war factories gradually diminish their output and finally close.

The biggest employment gains that the Negro has made during the past five years have been in war plants—in war industry. But once they are closed, the seniority status of these workers becomes meaningless.

Many thousands of Negro workers in war and related industries hold only auxilliry status in unions. And we are aware that this is a "duration only" status, come the close of the war, the full barriers will prevail.

From this point on, personnel selections will be made more scrutinizingly. This means that even among white workers only the most desirable will be hired, especially in non-war industries.

Needless to labor the difficulty of the Negro worker in such a job market. Yet, in spite of this difficulty, **the Negro must win the battle of sharing the jobs in our democracy if we are to make the present struggle meaningful.**

His lines of action are clearly evident. The Negro like all other minorities should make common cause with progressive labor, economic and political forces in this nation which are dedicated to **full** and **fair** employment.

Alone, the Negro will be unable to win this fight for full and fair employment. It is the grossest delusion to feel that he can. Racial or group isolationism is a prelude to disaster in a world where co-operation will be imperative for survival.

So the Negro must ally himself with all of the progressively democratic forces which are fighting to make valid the cause for which so much has already been expended.

N. Y. C. NEW REPUBLIC
JUNE 4, 1945

To Ensure Full Employment

SIR: More than any other group in the community, Negroes are vitally interested in preventing postwar unemployment. They are the first fired and the last hired, so that if there is 10 percent of unemployment among the general population, there is 20 percent of unemployment among Negroes. Our organization, together with the CIO and other progressive groups, is working for a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee to stop that. Another way to prevent the racial tension and even race riots which will be the probable result of postwar unemployment is to prevent unemployment itself.

The full-employment bill, S., 380, introduced by Senators Murray of Montana, Wagner of New York, O'Mahoney of Wyoming and Thomas of Utah, aims to do just that. The bill seeks to assure adequate total expenditures by private persons for consumption, by business for investment, and by various governmental bodies, to give useful jobs at decent pay to all able and willing to work. It would leave private industry as the first line of defense against unemployment and encourage investment by private business. But we must recognize that free enterprise without government planning never gave us full employment in peacetime. On the contrary, every eight or ten years it has plunged us into a severe depression with widespread unemployment, which culminated in our worst and longest depression, which began in 1930 under Herbert Hoover's presidency.

It is only common sense, therefore, to make the government the second line of defense against unemployment, ready with plans and useful projects to provide jobs for those to whom private industry fails to give employment.

That is the purpose of the full-employment bill, and it deserves the support of all forward-looking citizens.

CONSUELO C. YOUNG, Director of Publicity and Promotion,
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
New York City

Charleston, S. C. News-Courier
JUNE 5, 1945

Pullman Car Porters and Others

In some of the industries separation of the races has always been the rule in Southern states, but association of white people and negroes as workers was commoner by far two or three generations ago than it is now. White and colored carpenters, plasterers and others in the building trades work together now but not so much as formerly.

In the fields white and colored men and women hoed and picked cotton together. As time passed, the poorer white people went to the cotton mills where they live in segregated villages and labor without association with negroes. Often The News and Courier has said that the lure of the textile mills as a segregated industry was the main factor in the industry's establishment.

Separation of the races in the South was encouraged by Northern custom. Elderly people remember when they had never seen a white waitress or waiter in a Southern hotel, had never seen a white barber in the South. Now the whites have about captured the barber's trade and thousands of white waitresses are to be seen in the hotel dining rooms.

The colored man was, while the horse and buggy age lasted, invariably the Southern village blacksmith, but the garage man is a white citizen. In the South the driver of a private passenger automobile, when the owner is not the driver, is colored, but the "tourists" who come from the North have white drivers in nearly all cases.

Of one vocation the negroes still have a monopoly, and it pays them well. There are no white porters and waiters on the pullman cars and sleepers. If the FEPC should enforce rules when employment shall be scarcer than now, as it certainly will be, white men will demand to be employed by the Pullman company and the negroes will lose in the field in which, to this time, they have been free from competitioin.

If the incitation of Southern negroes now in progress shall continue, if their efficiency shall be impaired, as it has been in some communities in the South that we hear of, colored domestic servants will gradually be replaced by white people. Of this is no immediate prospect, but it were as well that human creatures have in mind that the present high living will not go on forever however we shall have more high flying.

The News and Courier has no doubt that negro migration will continue, or be renewed, and it is equally sure that white migration to the South, from the North, is soon to set in on large scale. To the colored people that means more and sharper competition than ever they had before in this Southern country.

Toward Freedom

Labor and the Negro in The Reconversion Crisis

Daily Worker N.Y.C.

THE million of white and Negro workers now facing postwar breadlines threatens to raise in acute form our continuing problems of race relations. And no group has greater stakes in this problem than the organized labor movement of America.

Some years ago a study was made which revealed that, over a period of several decades, the annual number of lynchings in the South varied inversely with the price of cotton. Whenever cotton prices rose, the number of lynchings declined; whenever the price of cotton went down, the number of lynchings went up. Fluctuations in the price of cotton in the South provide a rough index of economic conditions, and this relationship between cotton prices and lynchings teaches a lesson which has crucial implications for our entire nation—especially now. 8-20-45

The lesson is this: **Racial conflict is most acute when the masses of men are insecure.** When millions of workers—white workers do not know how they will feed their families next week, or when they might be evicted by their landlords—then they are easy prey to inflammatory racial propaganda designed to manipulate our latent prejudices for reactionary, anti-social ends. Then it is that we have the "best" possible setting for incitations to violent race conflict.

It appears that we are now entering such a period. Even though it be brief and transitory, it holds the possibilities of wrecking the progressive labor movement and the democratic political coalition on the rocks of racial strife.

* * *

LET no one doubt that powerful forces in America are ready and eager to seize upon the social strains of mass unemployment to achieve precisely these reactionary goals.

Anti-labor employers have long known the "value" of setting white workers against Negro workers as a means of weakening the unions. The gross disproportion of Negro workers being laid off presents an opportunity they certainly will not neglect. And the danger to labor is now even greater than after World War I, when AFL exclusiveness kept most Negro workers out of the unions. Today, the strength of many powerful unions is absolutely dependent upon firm unity between white and Negro workers in the industry.

Open-shop industries which labor will now try to organize, especially in the South, will find a ready means of "protection" through the manipulation of racial prejudices.

Native pro-fascists of whom there are plenty in our country, have demonstrated many times their understanding of the "scape-goat" technique which Hitler used to enslave the whole German people. They will not overlook the possibilities of anti-Negro feelings for the same ends in America.

by Doxey A. Wilkerson

8-20-45

The reactionary political forces whom we defeated last November, through a broad coalition of labor, the Negro people and all other democratic elements, are still with us. And they will not overlook the possibilities of depression-born anti-Negro feelings to destroy the coalition which kept them from governmental power in 1944. 8-20-45

* * *

THE implications of all this should be clear.

The organized labor movement in America now has got to face the Negro question squarely, and throw its whole resources into the struggle against all forms of anti-Negroism.

This is not something labor **should** do to "help the Negro." This is something labor now must do to defend itself and the nation against the attacks which reaction has already begun to launch in this period of rapidly increasing postwar unemployment.

CONGRESS SHOULD NOT LET US DOWN

Iowa Bystander Des Moines 9-6-45

Just as we were caught unprepared for war in 1941 when the Japs pounced upon us at Pearl Harbor, so were we unprepared for the peace which came out of a clear sky as far as the public knew, when Japan decided to go no further in an effort to hold the territory she had gained in her recent conquests.

It was generallyy known that the war plants would close down, that agencies which grew up as a part of the war would no longer be needed when hostilities ceased yet most of those associated with them were somewhat at sea when their separation orders came.

Last spring, congress was reminded that large numbers of people would be thrown out of work when the war closed. An effort was made to pass a measure to pay idle war workers twenty-five dollars per week for 26 weeks as unemployment compensation. Strong opposition developed and congress adjourned without taking any action. And the people are disturbed.

The new deal, under the late President Roosevelt taught that the federal government should guarantee everybody the bare necessities of life and carried through on this theory with WPA and other alphabetical agencies which provided the unemployed with some form of made work or relief.

In years gone by, private industry has pulled this country out of depressions. In the last one, the federal government undertook the job and it is conceded that it was longer and as painful as any we have had.

This goverment system of preventing and curing depressions has its weaknesses as any meaure will. While it stood off hunger and cold until war made jobs for all, it produced thousands of worthless people who not only got it into their thinking that the government ought to take care for them but also that they were willing to take less as recipients of relief in order to escape doing an honest day's work. This is one of the objections to the full employment bill now before congress.

The Bystander feels that we ought to improve our laws so as to have some type of employment measure as a guard against mass suffering which is bound to come with 2 to 6 million people out of work this winter as has been commonly estimated. Certainly if we can spend money to fight wars, we can feed and house our citizens. On the other hand, while nobody should be allowed to suffer, stringent rules should be provided to eliminate those who would abuse the system and every effort should be made to encourage industry to take the responsibility over from the government.

Giving Negro Fair Opportunity For Jobs Held Vital to State

Newark, N.J. Call

Data Show That All New Jersey Pays When Discrimination Is Practiced

By KENNETH FIESTER

The self-interest of all New Jersey citizens will best be served if job opportunities for Negroes continue at least as widespread as during the wartime manpower shortage. 9-2-45

This conclusion is inescapable from a study of employment and relief figures for the depression years. The equal economic opportunity sought for Negroes in such measures as the new antidiscrimination law is more than a matter of abstract justice; it is of great concern to the pocketbooks of the white majority.

In the five years 1935-39, inclusive, an average of nearly $30,000,000 was expended in New Jersey each year for public assistance to Negroes, acording to figures compiled by Douglas H. MacNeil, assistant director of the statistics and research division, State Department of Institutions and Agencies.

This sum includes direct relief, WPA, NYA, CCC and aid to dependent children, the aged and the blind. It does not include hospital care for the indigent and other auxiliary services provided from municipal funds.

From Federal Funds

It is true that the bulk of the money was furnished by the Federal government and was not a direct drain on the state treasury. But since similar conditions prevailed elsewhere in the country, it is fair to say that Jerseymen themselves paid the bill.

The $30,000,000 represented nearly one-fourth of all relief expenditures in New Jersey. Yet Negroes, according to the 1940 census, comprise only 5.5 per cent of the state's population.

During the worst years, approximately two-thirds of all New Jersey Negroes were receiving some form of relief.

The reason for this high proportion of Negroes in the relief population can also be expressed statistically. Figures are not available for the state as a whole, but the New Jersey Urban League has for years studied the percentage of Negroes employed by industries in Essex county and surrounding areas.

Jobs and Unemployment

In Essex county, Negroes comprise 8.5 per cent of the population. But in 1935 they made up only 3.5 per cent of the working force; in mechanical industries, the percentage was even less, 3.2.

This meant that for every Negro working, 33 whites had jobs; but for every Negro unemployed, there were only three whites in the same fix. 9-2-45

This proportion prevailed until some time after the United States entered the war. Then the desperate need for workers, coupled with the influence of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, brought Negro employment up until last year it reached 7.8 per cent in Essex county and 10.2 per cent in Newark—nearly equivalent to the proportion of population.

When More Negroes Got Jobs

Efforts of the antidiscrimination commission, the Urban League and other Negro agencies are now directed toward maintaining or even increasing the present proportion of Negroes among the employed. Heads of these agencies agree that prosperity and full employment would be their best assurance of success. But they argue that even in a depression, maintaining an equitable proportion of Negroes in jobs will not necessarily mean an equivalent increase in the number of unemployed whites.

Negro unemployment, they point out, continued at a high level long after the "defense" period had absorbed the bulk of the white workers. Some plants in need of help still refused Negroes. And thousands of Negroes had never had opportunity or incentive to develop industrial skills. Thus a whole class of porters, car washers and odd-job men had arisen, more numerous than even a fairly prosperous society could support.

Roy E. Norris, industrial secretary of the Urban League, believes re-employment now and in the next few months is the key to the Negro's immediate future. For example, he is keeping a sharp watch over the United States Employment Service to note any tendency of interviewers to channel Negroes back into their prewar odd-job categories.

"It is vitally important for Negroes who have acquired skills during the war to be rated at those skills," he said. "They must be given at least an equal chance at new industrial openings."

Favors 'Super-Seniority'

Ernest Thompson, acting president of the Hudson county CIO council, is a leading advocate of a plan to give Negro workers "super-seniority" to maintain them in a number of jobs comparable to their numbers within the community. Although this plan has been rejected by the state CIO, Thompson argued its merits in the August 7 edition of "New Masses," Communist party weekly.

Thompson compared this proposal with that granting war veterans similar privileges, and warned that it was esential to prevent a cleavage between Negroes and whites.

Norris pointed out that the Urban League had opposed this plan.

"We believe more harm than good would result from interfering with union seniority in layoffs," he said. "It would be necessary to set up one more line of segregation, distin-

guishing between Negro and white seniority, and it might be used to injure unions.

"However, I believe some similar principle should be followed in rehiring. Unions and employers alike should work for a larger proportion of Negroes among those given jobs until a balance is achieved which is in keeping with the pattern of the community."

Other Negro leaders, like Harold A. Lett, former executive secretary of the Urban League and now assistant director of the state FEPC, expect no actual preference for Negroes in rehiring, but base their hopes on equal treatment. Lett accepts the fact that because Negroes were last to be hired they will constitute the bulk of those laid off. However, he feels that if they are not left until last in rehiring, but absorbed along with the whites this situation will not recur.

In addition, all agencies expect to press for Negro employment in hitherto unopened fields, particularly non-war industries, such as life insurance companies, which were not subject to federal FEPC rules. 9-2-45

Julius A. Thomas, director of industrial relations for the National Urban League, believes this is the crux of the problem.

"These are the fields which will expand in the years to come," he said. "There will be a great building boom, for example, yet your New Jersey building trades unions have yet to demonstrate willingness to accept Negro members on an equal basis.

Many Have Lost Jobs

"The rankest discrimination exists in the areas where the new jobs must be found. In sales, in clerical work and in white-collar work generally the Negro has been given no place."

Thomas estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 Negroes have lost industrial jobs since V-J Day. He feels they would be wise not to rush back to the low-paid, menial positions they held before the war, lest they be accused of helping break down wage rates to the detriment of other workers. And, of course, both he and Norris are anxious to avoid encouraging a public belief that the Negro is equipped only for work of a lower order of skill.

"We want a Negro girl to feel just as free to study typing and clerical work as the white girl in the next seat at school," Norris said. "She should have the same chance for an office job if she has the skill. We have made some progress industrially, but we still have a long way to go in other fields."

Truman's False Optimism

The Daily Worker New York, N.Y.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN told an astonished nation the other day that employment is back to V-J Day levels.

We do not know where the President got his figures. Only a day earlier, the New York regional office of the United States Employment Service revealed in its report for October that while job-seekers were increasing, jobs were shrinking. 12-3-45

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that since the end of the war the number of people employed has dropped over 1,500,000. And during this period, 3,500,000 men and women have been demobilized.

Obviously, the President's statement does not jibe with the known facts. Moreover, it is scarcely in line with the President's expressions of support for the Murray full employment bill and for measures to keep purchasing power up, such as the bills to increase unemployment compensation and to raise wage minimums.

7,000,000 Unemployed

12-3-45

It breeds a false optimism which lends encouragement to the reactionary elements in Congress who are trying, with considerable success thus far, to kill these bills. It increases our suspicion that the President merely gave these measures his formal endorsement without being too concerned about securing their passage.

How false Truman's optimism is may be judged from the fact that on the very day the President made his statement a survey by Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace predicted that 7,000,000 will be unemployed next year.

The Wallace study indicates that while corporate profits will be double prewar profits during the next five years, wage and salary incomes will drop $25,000,000,000 a year.

Here is the crux of the whole employment problem. This is the key to the bitter struggles taking place today on the industrial front. While Big Business is fighting to continue to suck out of the economy the huge profits it made during wartime, the working class is fighting to maintain national purchasing power and to prevent a return to sub-standards of living.

The facts uncovered in the Wallace study explain why CIO President Philip Murray conducted his bitter and persistent struggle at the late labor-management conference for a wage policy that would restore lost purchasing power at the expense of inflated profits. The fact that the conference refused to accept the CIO position doomed it to futility. The refusal was itself based on an attempt by the employers, abetted by John L. Lewis and William Green, to use the conference as a means of shackling labor in the fight for increased wages.

Let the veterans, who are going through a rough experience looking for jobs that will enable them to support their families, judge who is right in this struggle.

Let the People Judge

12-3-45

Let the Negro workers, who are being let out of the shops as unemployment hits the nation and who are compelled to take any jobs they can get, judge who is right.

Let the farmers, who are in deathly fear of a collapse in prices as the national income drops, judge where their interest lies in the fight for higher wages and jobs as against inflated profits.

Let the small businessmen and the professionals, whose income depends upon the income of the masses of people, judge where their interest lies in this struggle.

In its efforts to isolate the workers from these various sections of the population, Big Business is spreading the tale that continued shortages of peacetime goods are a result of strikes. The President has revealed, however, that since August only three-quarters of one percent of all time worked had been lost through strikes.

It is not labor that has caused continued shortages. It is Big Business, which first deliberately held up production by delaying reconversion until it could get its taxes reduced and is now holding up the nation so that it can continue its wartime profiteering into the peace, that must be held accountable for those shortages.

45b-1945

General

Across The Desk

By LUDLOW W. WERNER

New York Age

EMPLOYMENT — The Monthly Labor Review, official organ of the United States Department of Labor, in its last issue reviewed the labor picture as it perains to Negroes and what was reported should cause all of us to sit up and take notice. 2-24-45

Although the defense and wartime civilian employment of Negroes increased by approximately one million jobs between April 1940 and April 1944, the Review declares that the consolidation of these gains in the postwar period will be largely dependent upon the maintenance of a high level of postwar employment.

We like to believe that the war has wrought miracles in employment because we have seen so many people going to work, and because there is so much money in circulation among Negroes now. Actually, however, the statistics show that while the employment of Negro men rose from 2,900,000 to 3,200,000 during the four year period, and that the number of employed Negro women increased from 1,500,000 to 2,100,000, "the Negroes' greatest employment advances have been made in precisely those occupations. industries, and areas. in which the postwar adjustment will be most severe." 2-24-45

The summary, prepared by Seymour L. Wolfbein, of the Occupational Outlook Division of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, shows that the increase in employment is not all that many organizations have claimed it to be. It takes the cold, hard statistical data compiled by the U. S. Department of Labor to show the picture in its true light.

The survey found the shift of Negro men from the farm to the factory the most outstanding change that took place in the labor force during the four-year period. The number in skilled and unskilled factory operations rose from about 500,000 to about 1,000,000, while in the same period the number on farms, either as farm operators or laborers, decreased by about 300,000. The number of Negro men working as proprietors, managers, and officials increased 50 per cent in the 4-year period. but in April 1944 still had not reached 75,000.

The report also found that slightly over 6 of every employed Negro women were in some service activty in April 1940 and the great majority of these were domestic servants. After 4 years, the proportion in the services had decreased only slightly although a significant internal shift had occurred. The proportion working as domestic servants showed a marked decrease, while those engaged in the personal service. e. g.. as beauticians, cooks, waitresses, etc., showed a corresponding increase. It is interesting to note, in this connection, that the actual number of Negro domestics showed a slight increase between 1940 and 1944 (about 50,000) but it was not enough to counterbalance the decline of 400,000 among white domestic servants. 2-24-45

As was true in the case of men, the most pronounced occupational shift among Negro women was from the farm to the factory. In April 1940, some 16 per cent of the entire female Negro labor force was on farms. 4 years later that proportion had been halved. The total number of Negro women employed had increased by about a third; the number employed on farms had decreased by about 30 per cent. On the other hand, women employed as craftsmen and foremen and as factory operatives almost quadrupled during the same period.

While there was considerable upgrading of Negroes, by April 1944 both men and women were engaged in skilled and semi-skilled factory operations which few had performed before the war. Nevertheless, a considerable proportion was still engaged in unskilled occupations and service activities. One in every 5 Negro men was working as an unskilled laborer in April 1940; after 4 years, the proportion remained the same. The same situation was found in practically every other major occupational group. 2-24-45

Special mention must be made of Negroes employed in government service. In April 1944 there were about 200,000 so employed as contrasted to fewer than 60,000 in the same month in 1940.

What of the postwar job prospects? The survey indicates that the Negro has made his greatest employment gains in those occupations (especially semi-skilled factory jobs) which will suffer the severest cutbacks during the postwar period; further he has made his biggest advance in those industries(especially the "metals, chemicals, and rubber" group) which will experience the greatest postwar declines.

"Finally, it also should be noted that in those occupations and industries in which the Negro has made his greatest employment advances, he was generally among the last to be hired," the survey concludes. "Therefore under seniority rules he is more likely to be laid off than the average worker in these occupations ..... The consolidation of the Negro's gains in the postwar period(and this is true, of course, for a sizable proportion of other workers as well) is dependent in large measure upon the volume of employment that then prevails."

The Myth Of The Manpower Shortage

AFL2n2 W&L2 G2

(From The Louisiana Weekly New Orleans, La.)

2-16-45

JUDGING from the strenuous efforts of Congress and war plant production managers, there is a serious manpower shortage that threatens to impede the progress of the war against our Axis foes. There is much alarm and concern about the manpower shortage, so much so that President Roosevelt has thrice asked Congress to pass a National Service Act. In the recent preliminary discussions concerning the feasibility of the National Service Act only two men of national prominence have had the moral honesty and guts to say really what is causing the pinch in the nation's manpower, which is reluctance on the part of too many plants to hire Negroes in any capacity they have ability for or to train them for any semi or skilled job

unbalanced see-saw. They think that if some groups can be forever held down, the other will forever enjoy economic privileges and prosperity at the end which is up. Fortunately, it does not work that way. The withholding of jobs and business opportunities from some people does not make more jobs and business opportunities for others."

The men were Philip Murray of the CIO and Eric Johnston, president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Johnston warned in a recent public speech that "Fortress we erect barriers on the grounds of race, or religion, or of occupational or professional status, we does not hamper the fullest expansion of our economic society. In- tolerance is poor economy. Prejudice doesn't pay. Discrimination doesn't pay. 2-16-45

Although thousands of black and white sons of the United States Army are fighting and dying side by side on front battlelines against two Axis foes who believe and practice race superiority, back here on the home front there are Americans with similar ideas and theories of race superiority. Because Negroes are discriminated against in war plants, there is a manpower shortage and the men, and white, on the fronts have to suffer from lack of ammunition and other necessary war supplies. These fighting men want the fighting material, ored workers are fighting against two foes who believe it. They are fighting against Hitler and need

"There is a tendency to soft-pedal the spread of alien doctrines of intolerance. The theory, I suppose, is that the best way to treat a disease is to pretend that it doesn't exist. That is a cowardly theory and, worse, a futile one. "It seems to me that honest diagnosis is the first indispensable measure in meeting the challenge of propaganda and whispering campaigns directed against ers, against Jews, against Catholics, against Negroes.

"There are some in our country, industrialists, white collar workers, laboring people who hold to the myth that economic progress can be attained on the principle of the

the front there are and the war plants, fighting men and colwhether white and coldoing vital war goods, or whether who is upgraded. These fighting men want the fighting material, and need it. They are fighting against two foes who be-

lieve in race superiority. Surely they are not fighting to uphold the same theory in this country. 2-16-45

These shortsighted Americans who are so prejudiced apparently don't care whether their sons, husbands, fathers or sweethearts die because of lack of the vital war goods so long as they maintain segregation, discrimination of Negroes in typical Hitlerite fashion, here in the United States. The luxury of race prejudice is indeed costly and greatly hampers the fighting men's heroic efforts on the battlefronts for democracy and freedom.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Chicago Defender By WALTER WHITE 1-6-45

Job Jericho Falls

TWENTY-SIX colored girls have started training as telephone operators in New York City and another brick falls from the walls of Jericho of unemployment.

Once more years of patient agitation, much of which seemed hopeless at the time, have brought results, for long before the FEPC came into being, citizens of New York, both colored and white, have urged upon the New York Telephone company and other public utilities that the color bar be abolished.

Walter White

But the FEPC chalks up one more victory in a record which though modest, is, nevertheless astonishing in light of the meagre powers to investigate and to compel compliance with its findings.

Others Fall In Line

PERHAPS before this column is printed more good news may come out of New York when one of the largest and most powerful financial institutions in the world follows the example of the telephone company. If this goes through, there are other similar institutions which have indicated that they too may employ Negroes in other than custodial or messenger jobs.

A great deal is going to depend upon those who pioneer in these jobs. In saying this, it is not for a moment suggested that they should go in groveling in gratitude. But it is to be hoped that they will go in on the same basis as anyone else anticipating neither hostility nor special concessions.

Some of their white fellow employes, inspired by the highest of motives, may show them too much attention to offest the efforts to embarrass the new Negro workers which other white employes may attempt.

No Room For Failure

IN ONE INSTITUTION where Negroes are shortly to be employed, there are several thousand employes. One of them, unfortunately, is a highly competent woman, but who was born in Georgia. Already she has manifested her opposition to the employment of Negroes and will probably try to cause trouble.

Fortunately, her intentions are known to the top executives. But if the incoming Negro employes let this woman annoy them into creation of scenes or attempt to justify poor work because of the machinations of the minority of employes like the Georgia woman, the experiment may fail.

I don't think it will. Memories of the depression years during the 30's are too sharp to be forgotten. And the young people who are going into these jobs have a quiet confidence in their own ability and an awareness of the responsibility and opportunity which is theirs which will not permit failure.

While here, White conferred with Admiral Chester W. Nimitz on two occasions, with Lt.-Gen. Richardson, Brig.-Gen. Fielder, Admiral Furlong, Brig.-Gen. Blount and others, as well as with many enlisted men.

According to the Honolulu **Advertiser**, more than 200 colored servicemen attended the public forum meeting.. In the lively question period that followed the soldiers asked about FEPC and postwar employment, the Port Chicago explosion and "mutiny" trial, the courts martial of Negro soldiers at Fort Lawton, Washington, and racial tensions in the United States.

In a letter to his office White stated that from first observation, there have not been as many indicents of friction in the Pacific "as there have been in other theatres I have visited." He also stated that some of the 200,000 military and civilian whites from the mainland have "created problems" in a land which had very little, if any, race prejudice before their arrival, but that officials were working earnestly on the situation, assisted by many whites, including southerners.

Simons Department Store Has Jobs for Wrappers, Packers

AFRO-AMERICAN 1-6-45

By RICHARD DIER

NEW YORK—Colored men and women applying for work in the Franklin Simon department store at Fifth Avenue and 38th Street will find jobs available to them as wrappers and packers only, and no promises of permanent or post-war employment.

J. Crawford, personnel manager, to the AFRO:

"We first started hiring colored employees about a year ago before Christmas. Some of them stayed on right to the present time and a good many of the others have come back again this Christmas and brought their friends with them, ready to go to work.

Satisfied with Work

"Generally speaking, we're quite satisfied with their work; in fact, as wrappers and packers they're as good if not better than white employees.

"We've never hired them for sales or clerical work," he continued, "and I can't say anything for the future. One fellow, a college graduate, recently applied for work in the receiving department. That's a very responsible position, but I thought he was qualified to handle it and may have taken him for the job. 1-6-45

"However, he wanted a salary of $55 to $60 a week, and anyone knows the department store line realizes that this type of business doesn't pay that kind of money."

War Vets First

Mr. Crawford said that permanent employment or promises of post-war employment are out of the question at present because war veterans will have first choice when they return.

"It's going to be quite a problem taking care of them. Many factors are involved in this situation and it will take careful planning to set matters straight.

"For instance, we have stock boys who went into the Army as privates and are now captains. It will be difficult placing them in their same jobs. They will probably want better ones.

"The whole thing's very complex, and the sooner we all get down to business and do some long-range planning, the better off we'll all be."

Georgia Plant Hires 1st Women

Philadelphia Tribune

MACON, Ga. (ANP)—For the first time since it opened in 1942, the huge naval ordnance plant here has colored women working on the production lines.

Employment of the women followed a long and presistent fight led by the Macon branch, March on Washington Movement, aided by the southeastern regional office of the FEPC, which ordered W. I. Shiver, manager of the Macon office, USES, not to refer any more women employes to the plant until the application of hundreds of Negro women had been given fair consideration.

45b-1945

Illinois

Chicago Area Typical Of Many Affected Regions

Atlanta Daily World 8-19-45 G2.

Director Warns Government And Industry Must Aid

CHICAGO—(ANP)— Thousands of Negro war workers are losing their jobs all over he country as an immediate effect of the end of the war with little prospect of reemployment in civilian industries it was stated this week by Elmer W. Henderson, regional FEPC director.

Typical of many areas is Chicago where the great employment advances which Negroes have made during the war. have been in the munitions industries and the government service-fields which are being immediately and drastically cut. It is estimated that there are 56, 000 Negroes in munitions manufacturing here. This includes ordnance, aircraft, electrical and radio equipment, chemicals and steel The vast majority of the jobs are war-created and are being the first abolished. Approximately 15,000 are in government employment, a large part in the war and navy depts., in storage dispersal depots and in the inspection of war materials.

MUST HAVE JOBS 8-19-45

"Distress will be acute," Hendersnn warned, unless immediate and effective steps are taken by the government and industry to provide at least 2,250,000 jobs in the Chicago area and to guarantee against racial discrimination in reemployment.

"The FEPC will do its level best to prevent discrimination during this critical period, but much of our authority will vanish with the termiation of war contacts, An unparalled crisis is upon us. It is a grim paradex that the glorious and victorious end of the war should threaten Negro veterans and war workers with mass unemployment and a return to the relief rolls."

"The only way to prevent is," Hederdson declared, "is quick action by the government with the cooperation of industry to set in motion a peace-time economy feared to high production with high wages and to abolish once and for all racial discrimination in employment." 8-19-45

Mr. Henderson named several of the Chicago plants affected by the cutback and listed Negro workers laid off: Dodge Co,, 5,600; Douglass Aircraft, 939, Aluminum Company of America, about 500; Buick Aviation Corp, around 700.

45b-1945

New Jersey

A Jersey Town Fights for Jobs

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

AFL, CIO Join in Elizabeth Struggle

9-7-45

By BETH McHENRY

ELIZABETH, N. J., Sept. 6.—Many of the war workers in this industrial town on Newark Bay are young people but very few are babes industrially speaking. One young worker at a demonstration here yesterday said, "I guess you get born knowing about bosses in a town like this."

This knowing attitude has led to a general slogan of the labor movement here. This is, **"Full Employment Will Not Be Handed to Us on a Silver Platter. We'll Have to Plan, Work and Fight for It."**

Well, the battle's on, and it begins to look as if the whole town is behind the CIO and AFL, who are joined together in the struggle for jobs at union wages and conditions.

We had a glimpse of the determination of Elizabeth workers at a demonstration here yesterday. Nearly 3,000 of them piled out of the Phelps-Dodge Copper Products plant here at noon and marched down to City Hall to air their grievances against that company.

A COPPER COPPERHEAD

Now, the Phelps-Dodge plant hasn't shut down. As a matter of fact, its layoffs are almost negligible. The plant doesn't have to be converted, there's a big market waiting for its products. Yet Phelps-Dodge is very much a part of the postwar attack which reactionary employers are waging against workers.

Only the war earnestness of the Phelps-Dodge workers, all members of Local 441, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO, has prevented stoppages during the past three years. The company has done its utmost to provoke the union. At this very writing, Phelps-Dodge employes here are working under an agreement that expired on May 5, 1944. Wylie Brown, president of the company hung his pen on the wall, refusing to sigr a contract containing such minimum protections for workers as maintenance of membership, paid holidays, vacations with pay, and a general wage increase of 1 cent an hour!

The War Labor Board told Wylie Brown these were its recommendations.

But Wylie Brown said no.

Who is this Wylie Brown that he can tell the government to go to hell?

Well, he's a Who's Who Boy, described therein as "pres. and dir. of Phelps Dodge Copper Products Corp., Habirshaw Cable & Wire Corp., British American Metals Co. Inc., American Copper Products Corp., British American Tube Co., Inc.; dir. Metal Textile Corp." etc.

The demonstrators carried placards linking Brown with Sewell Avery. Thats where he stands in the workers' "Who's Who."

Phelps Dodge Copper Products is one of 11 subsidiaries of Phelps Dodge Corp., second largest copper producing outfit in the country.

BIG WAR PROFITS

Phelps Dodge had a net profit of $12,651,760 last year. Its net profits this year to June 30 were $6,186,275.

And yet Wylie Brown acted as if he hated the union more than he hated the Nazis and the Japanese. As long ago as D-Day he refused to join his employes in a pledge to back the invasion with uninterrupted production.

After the V-J Day celebrations, Phelps-Dodge workers returned to the plant to find that the company had docked them for the time they had taken at the President's suggestion.

Yesterday's demonstration also expressed the solidarity of the Elizabeth workers with fellow employes of Phelps Dodge at Fort Wayne, Ind., 1,000 of whom are locked out for having refused to work for straight time Saturday and Sunday.

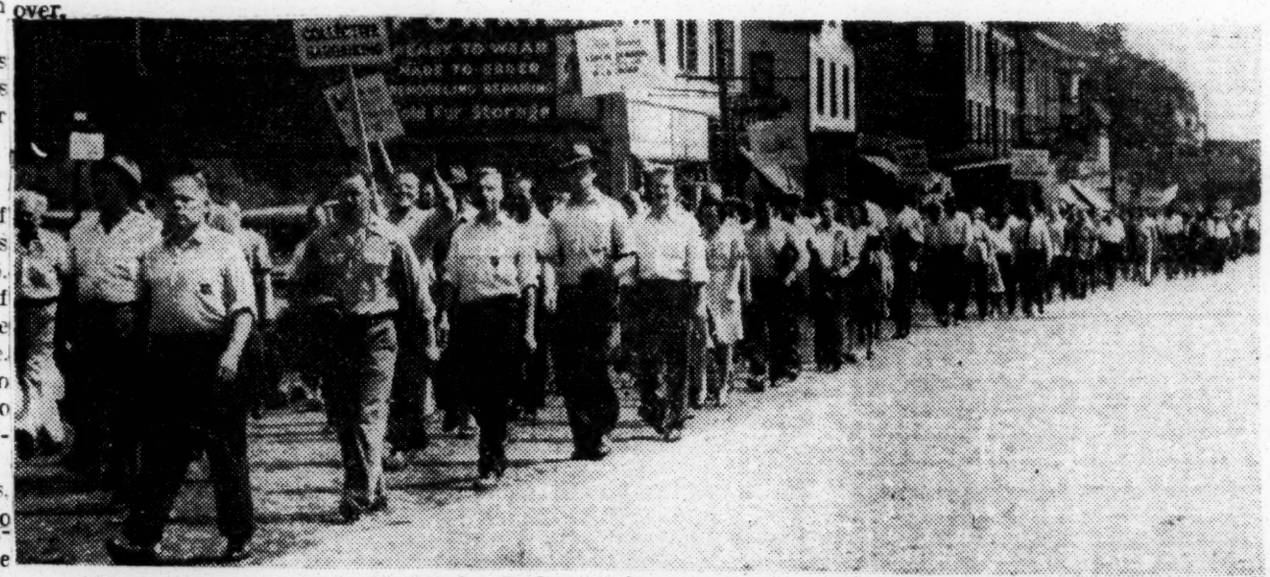
20,000 LAID OFF

In the Elizabeth area some 20,000 workers are out of jobs entirely right now. The big General Motors plant at nearby Linden has shut down almost completely, turning a total of 13,000 workers out during the past few months. Singer's Sewing Machine Co. has added another 2,000 to 6,000 previous layoffs.

Union County, of which Elizabeth is the seat, has a united Full Employment Committee, with all AFL and CIO locals represented on it. Together the AFL and CIO went to Elizabeth's City Council last night with a resolution demanding the city assume responsibility for full employment here at decent wages.

The City Council approved the resolution unanimously and urged the mayor to call a conference immediately.

There's obvious concern among the workers in this town, even on a parade day. The faces at yesterday's demonstration were serious. There were men there carrying their children, and pregnant wives. But none of them seemed afraid. They looked like people consicous that they had the answer; unity and a program and the power to put it over.



Fellow citizens cheered the Phelps-Dodge workers as they paraded from the big plant to City Hall Square. Their placards told the story: they want the right to work at union wages and conditions.

JOBS FOR NEGROES DISCUSSED IN CITY

New York Times

'Fair Share' Is Held to Call for Full Employment, Housing and Bar to Bias

N.Y., N.Y. 10-7-45

Full employment, adequate housing and proper enforcement of the Fair Employment Practice Act in this State are needed to assure Negro workers a "fair share" of jobs in the reconversion period, representatives of community organizations and labor and educational groups declared yesterday at an emergency jobs conference in the Y. W. C. A. at 179 West 137th Street.

The sponsoring organizations included the Greater New York Council of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, American Youth for Democracy, the National Negro Congress, the Negro Labor Victory Committee, the metropolitan chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, the New York chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Urban League of Greater New York and units of the American Federation of Labor. 10-7-45

Edward S. Lewis, executive secretary of the New York Urban League, declared that on the basis of recent labor organization estimates of 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 unemployed by next spring, 1,000,000 would be Negroes. He pointed out that although there was "potentially a $1,000,000,000 housing program planned in New York City," a survey of the building trades revealed fewer than 1,000 Negro workers eligible for jobs in the construction industry.

Redoubled efforts for establishment of a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee in Washington are necessary, he said, to help Negroes. He commented that "if the State commission is to be effective it will have to bring pressure upon employers to relieve these conditions and not rely merely on an educational program."

Saul Mills, secretary-treasurer of the CIO council, declared that the issues of full employment and "fair employment" were "community problems in the broadest sense" and were the principal factors in "strike actions" throughout the nation.

Citing recent statistics of the United States Employment Service, Mr. Mills said 15 per cent of recent applicants were Negroes and that in proportion to population two Negroes either were laid off or looking for work for every white person. He commented that "our major problem is how to combat that type of discrimination." 10-7-45

Speaking for the Hotel and Club Employes Union, AFL, Miss Gertrude Lane, an organizer, reported that Negro workers had a representation of 50 per cent in the organization.

Mrs. Gertrude Robinson, metropolitan president of the National Council of Negro Women, declared that its 800,000 members favored cooperation with other women's organizations "to discuss the current problems facing the nation."

Miss Winifred Norman, a director of American Youth for Democracy, called for coordination of Federal and local agencies on employment and Federal aid to schools.

45b-1945

Pennsylvania

6200 Affected By Shut Down Of Number 4 Yard At Sun Ship

Philadelphia Tribune

By GEORGE LYLE, JR.

An experiment, which paid off in millions of dollars, both to the employer and the employees, will soon be concluded when Yard No. 4 at the Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company in Chester, closes down.

3-17-45 P2-

Construction of the all-colored-manned yard began in the latter part of 1942 and the first keel was laid in December, 1942. The ship, the Marine Eagle, was launched in time that was comparable to that of the other yards.

Protests arose from civic groups over the formation of the 'Jim Crow' yard and John G. Pew, Sr., president of the Sun Company was assailed from all angles on his stand.

During the two and a half years of its operation Yard No. 4 has launched about 40 ships and car floats.

"Unless conditions change there will be no more keels for ships laid in No. 4 Yard, due to the fact that to use these ways we would have to spend a large sum of money on the piling under the ways. 3-17-45

"We do expect to operate the No. 4 Yard shops and to bring the other employees in the different crafts in that yard down to the North Central and South Yards.

"Employees will be placed in positions in their departments, as far as possible. Should it be necessary to change a few mechanics' classifications, it will be a question of seniority in that department, for the entire yard

"This notice is posted because we have received so many inquiries regarding this matter and one day last week Messrs. Ramsey and Smulyan with three labor members from the No. 4 Yard called on me and asked this question." 3-17-45

Company spokesmen denied the allegation that the yard was not producing and blamed the manpower shortage for the shutdown. The office workers and shops in the yard will be maintained, it was declared.

There will be 6200 workers affected.

Cutbacks to Hurt Negroes, Bell Says

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 10. (AP)—Negroes have made their greatest wartime employment gains in industries most subject to cutbacks in peacetime and for that reason may lose the measure of economic security they have gained in recent years when peacetime reconversion begins, William Y. Bell Jr., of Atlanta, Southern field director of the National Urban League, said Monday.

Addressing a session of the American Missionary Association Institute of Race Relations here at Fisk University, Bell said the munitions industry is a typical wartime pursuit in which Negroes maintain an eight per cent representation, the same ratio they bear to the total labor force in the country.

"Yet," he said, "it is estimated that 35 per cent of the munitions industry will experience cutbacks, and by next February we can expect layoffs of more than a quarter of a million Negro munitions workers, assuming a proportionate rate of discharge."

45b-1945

Virginia

Negro Students Train For Local Store Jobs

Richmond Times D.'s -Patch- Richmond, Va.

A group of 70 Negro high school students, 35 at Maggie Walker and 35 at Armstrong, are taking pre-employment classes in preparation for work in local stores during the Christmas season.

The students are being given a 10-hour course over a period of two weeks' time and are taught by Grace Matthews, co-ordinator at Maggie Walker. The course includes a study of the requirements for workers in the retail field, how to apply for a job, how to mark and stock merchandise, and how to wrap and pack goods.

Upon completion of the course, the 70 students will be given introductory cards which they may take to local stores in applying for Christmas work. These will explain to merchants that the applicant has been trained in the work. 11-12-45

45c-1945

Woman Barred As Ala. Mail Clerk

Birmingham P. O. Has No Rest Room For Negroes

CHICAGO, (ANP)—Welfare officials of the National Alliance of Postal Employees disclosed this week that Mrs. LaVerne J. Holland of Birmingham, who was certified by the United States Civil Service Commission for appointment to a position in the Birmingham terminal of the railway mail service, has been denied the job because there is no rest room for Negro women on the premises.

The matter is now being investigated by the post office department at Washington, and it was learned that Sidney M. Jackson, assistant chief clerk at large of the railway mail service, has been sent to the Alabama city to look into the situation.

Alliance executives also revealed that the organization is making special effort to have Negroes appointed to clerkships in the Selma, Ala., post office, where it is reported they are being "by-passed" in favor of white eligibles in spite of high ratings of Negroes.

WLB 'Freeze' Of Jobs Leads To Mobile Walkout

By JOHN LeFLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala.—Determination of the regional War Labor Board in Atlanta to "freeze" Negro laborers of the Mobile Pulley Works at a starvation hourly wage against the will of management and union alike led to a walk-out at that war plant last week.

The pulley works' laborers are members of AFL, Local No. 326, of the International Moulders and Foundry Workers Union. A meeting of the workers was held about six weeks ago to decide upon a procedure to break the stalemate which the regional War Labor Board had created in refusing to grant a 4-cent per hour increase agreed upon by management and union in the case.

The walk-out finally followed to focus attention upon a "deplorable injustice," union officials intimated.

They also said that the area War Manpower Commission had certified the case and recommended approval of the wage increase about a year ago.

Smith Women Study Post-War

Expectations

CHICAGO. (ANP)—Welfare officials of the National Alliance of Postal employes disclosed this week that Mrs. LaVerne J. Holland of Birmingham, who was certified by the United State Civil Service Commission for appointment to a position in the Birmingham terminal of the railway mail service, has been denied the job because there is no rest room for colored women on the premises.

The matter is now being investigated by the post office department at Washington,, and it was learned that Sidney M. Jackson, assistant chief clerk at large of the railway mail service, has been sent to the Alabama city to look into the situation.

Alliance executives also revealed that the organization is making special effort to have colored persons appointed to clerkships in the Selma, Ala., post office where it is reported are being "by-passed" in favor of white eligibles despite their high ratings.

SUN SHIP BARS NEGRO WELDERS

By JOHN Le FLORE
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

MOBILE, Ala.—The Sun Shipbuilding company this week failed to substantiate the blunt statement of one of its labor recruiters that their Negro welders are "incompetent and such additional workers are not wanted."

The statement was made to Dr. Burton R. Morley, area director of the War Manpower Commission, by an agent of the Sun company visiting here several weeks ago.

Dr. Morley repeated the statement to Elijah Jackson, International Marine and Shipbuilding Workers' union, CIO, and J. L. Le Flore, executive secretary of the local NAACP, in answer to their request that skilled Negro workers laid off at the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding company be given other jobs at comparable rates.

Skilled Workers Laid Off

The Negro welders, burners, riggers, erectors, chipfitters, painters, chippers, shipwrights and heaters were among 7,000 employes laid off at the ship construction yards here recently.

The NAACP secretary immediately wired Dr. Emmett J. Scott, director of Negro employment and personnel relations, at the Sun Ship company at Chester, Pa., making inquiry about the truth of the statement that the performances of their Negro welders were generally unsatisfactory.

A reply was received from personnel director and Vice-President John G. Pew which merely stated: "Our recruiters in your area only authorized by U.S. War Manpower Commission to recruit helpers and laborers."

Company Evades Question

Disappointed at Pew's evasiveness, the NAACP official directed a telegram to the Sun company, this time directly to Vice-President Pew. The terse reply received a few hours later read: "Present time War Manpower Commission supplying needs."

Several days later a letter was received from Dr. Scott enclosing a booklet prepared by Alfred E. Smith of the Chicago Defender giving the record of productivity of Negro workers at the Sun Shipbuilding company's No. 4 yard. Called a "Negro yard" because there the company offered extensive and substantial job opportunities to a large number of colored workers, only 300 out of the 8,000 workers employed there were white.

Dr. Scott's letter failed to offer any information which would refute or prove the labor recruiter's charge of Negro "incompetence." In view of the splendid record Negro skilled workers have made at the segregated yard of the Alabama Drydock and Shipbuilding company here, it is believed that colored workers at the Sun Shipbuilding company are just as efficient.

Negro Workers Set Record

Colored workers here have had a consistent record of good workmanship done in a minimum number of days. Several months ago they completed the Crow Wing, a 22,500-ton tanker, in the record time of 61 days from keel laying to launching. Only recently have white workers been able to do better, and then by only two days, despite the fact that whites are working on more shipways than Negro workers.

The decision of the Sun company to close Yard No. 4, the Negro yard, is regarded by many as an indication of the fate of Negro shipyard workers here after the war.

Anti- Bias Bill

NY Anti-Bias Bill Off to Good Start

AFRO-AMERICAN 3-10-45

The Dewey Commission's bill to give New York an anti-discrimination law got off to a good start in the Lower House of the State Legislature last week. 3-10-45

Likewise, the Labor Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives passed favorably on a measure embodying the best features of thirteen FEPC bills referred to it.

Among those Congressmen whose FEPC bills were thus employed to write the final committee legislation were William Dawson of Illinois, Adam C. Powell of New York, and Frank E. Hook, of Michigan. The latter is the gentleman who called Congressman Rankin a liar and with great restraint did not slap him down. Ind.

A comparison of the New York State bill with that of the House shows the two are much the same. It is plain that Congressmen made extensive use of the research and planning contained in the New York State Anti-Discrimination Commission's report which represents a year's work on the part of Irving Ives, Assembly majority leader; Elmer F. Quinn, Senate minority leader; distinguished lawyers like Charles H. Tuttle, and a group of experts.

Congressmen want it clearly understood that their bill proposes economic equality only. 3-10-45

New York State leaders, equally frank, regard their anti-discrimination job measure as only the first step toward combating race prejudice in other situations. New York is that far ahead of the national government.

Here is a digest of both bills:

U. S. FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE.	N. Y. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL
Bill reported favorably 5-2 by House Labor Committee.	*Bill passed N.Y. Assembly 109-32 without amendment.*
PURPOSE—Same as New York.	**PURPOSE** — To eliminate any discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin.
DECLARATION—The right to work free from discrimination is an immunity of the citizens of the U. S.	**DECLARATION** — The opportunity to secure employment without discrimination is declared to be a civil right.
DEFINITION — Same as New York.	**DEFINITION** — Unfair labor practice is refusal to hire or promote a worker, refusal to admit him to union membership, or incite others to do so.
COMMISSION SETUP—Same as New York.	**COMMISSION SETUP** — Five members, salary $10,000 each. Five-year term.
PROCEDURE — Same as New York.	
JUDICIAL REVIEW—Appeal to a U. S. Circuit Court.	
PENALTY—Contempt of court.	
PROCEDURE—Public hearings, issuance of cease and desist orders by commission if complaint is justified.	
JUDICIAL REVIEW — Appeal to Supreme Court of State.	
PENALTY—Not more than a year in jail; not over $500 fine.	

When the bill came before the New York State Legislature last week, Senator Coudert, at the suggestion of business interests, sought a delay and requested a public hearing.

The result was astounding. Five hundred persons showed up, the great majority of them for the bill, and representatives of one Statewide organization after another snowed under the businessmen's cry that New York should not be the first to try something new.

Why shouldn't New York lead the way? asked the venerable Jewish rabbi, Stephen S. Wise, and from then on the opposition was not only outnumbered, but overwhelmed.

10-Year-Old Answers Villard

One of the opponents of the New York bill was aging Oswald Garrison Villard. He will be 73 next week. When he writes of himself, he recalls that he is the grandson of William Lloyd Garrison, the abolitionist. 3-10-45

Recently Mr. Villard, unlike his grandfather, took the southern view which says—you cannot solve the race question by legislation; go slow, the remedy is education.

He got an answer from 10-year-old Paul Coburn, who made a trip from New York to Albany to read a statement which his whole class helped him to write.

How Paul came to be at the hearing urging the passage of the bill was told in last week's AFRO. The statement he read was applauded for five minutes, and we reprint it here for Mr. Villard.

"Some people," said Paul, "favor education, but it might take ten or fifteen or even fifty years. Our class believes you should legislate and educate."

Not so dramatic, but far more effective an answer to Mr. Villard's thesis that colored and white cannot be compelled by law to work together was that of Whitman Knapp in the New York Times, Friday. 3-10-45

Mr. Knapp tells how the Philadelphia Transit strike arose out of the hiring of colored motormen and that it was settled virtually at the point of the bayonet. Today, some months after the strike, these are the results:

1. Colored and white are working together, sharing common lockers and eating together.

2. The policy of hiring and upgrading colored workers has passed the risk stage. A colored supervisor has authority over colored and white foremen.

3. Colored trainmen, having become proficient, have been assigned to the training of white employees.

4. The union, with a membership of 2,200 white and 900 colored persons, has a colored vice-president.

5. It is the feeling of the company and the workers that the strike, though deplorable, educated the public and resulted in the improvement, rather than the deterioration, of race relations. 3-10-45

And what has happened in Philadelphia has been repeated in half dozen other cities where colored motormen, conductors and telephone operators have been put to work by FEPC order.

Antidiscrimination Bill Becomes Law In New Jersey

Courier-Journal Louisville, KY. 4-17-45

Trenton, N. J., April 16 (AP)—Surrounded by leaders of Negro groups from all parts of New Jersey, Governor Walter E. Edge signed into law today seven legislative bills banning racial and religious discrimination in employment, schools, municipal hospitals, hotels and places of entertainment. 4-7-45

"This is a very bold experiment and to a great extent an untried one," Edge said.

"It is unquestionably a step in the right direction which can only succeed." Edge continued, "if those who believe in it lend their aid to the spirit of tolerance which has never been displayed between those who favor these bills and those who do not want them—and there are many who do not want them."

THE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL

N.Y. Times

The hearings held at Albany on the Ives-Quinn bill, the declared purpose of which is "to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin," have done much to clarify the points at issue in the controversy which this measure has aroused. They have also made it clear that the essential disagreement is over the proper methods to be used in solving a problem whose existence is generally admitted. There is no disposition, on the part either of the friends or the critics of this bill, to deny the existence of some racial and religious discrimination in employment in this State. There is no disposition, on either side, to defend such discrimination or to regard it as anything but evil and un-American. The question at issue is whether this particular legislation would be helpful or harmful. On this question men of demonstrated good-will, men with equally long and honorable records in the cause of civil liberties and racial and religious understanding, have differed sharply. 2-22-45

There is general agreement that in the long run the only real and lasting solution of the problem of discrimination is education. It is significant that the sponsor of the measure, Mr. Ives himself, has declared that "the most vital feature of the proposed legislation is to be found in its educational provisions." These provisions propose to establish "advisory agencies and conciliation councils," both State-wide and local, whose business it would be to carry on such investigations and such research as would "tend to promote good-will and minimize and eliminate discrimination." We warmly welcome these sections of the bill. We believe that in the hands of an able commission appointed by the Governor they could do much that is necessary and desirable. In fact, we are so strongly convinced that the educational method is the best solution of the problem that we should ourselves welcome an experiment of several years under the educational provisions of the Ives bill, with its coercive and punitive enforcement provisions to be invoked only at the end of that period in case of general agreement that sufficient progress was not being made by this method.

However, we recognize that this is not the main issue now raised at Albany. That issue turns upon the enforcement provisions of the bill, and it is here that opinion divides sharply. The friends of the bill, who seem heavily to outnumber its critics, are convinced that it can be enforced fairly and that its enforcement will stimulate, broaden and deepen understanding between different racial and religious groups. The critics of the bill believe that it will be difficult to enforce fairly, because its enforcement will require an examination not only of the facts but of the *motives* involved in every failure to employ, or every act of dismissal, or every failure to reward or promote, in which discrimination can be alleged; that the door will be thus opened to frequent and constant abuses in the form of "nuisance suits" and other racketeering; that as a means of avoiding such abuses many employers will feel compelled to employ, or to retain in their employment, obviously inefficient workers; and that the net result will be the establishment of "quota" systems, and the exasperation rather than the amelioration of racial and religious feelings. 2-22-45

On these points we share many of the misgivings of the critics of the bill. But we recognize the strength of the opinion in favor of its enactment, and we further recognize that objections made on the grounds of possible abuses in its enforcement must, like the benefits claimed for it, necessarily be conjectural. Neither the friends nor the critics of the bill can be certain how it would work in practice. Experience alone can provide this test. And it is our own belief that the evil of discrimination is so great, the essential purpose of the bill itself is so proper and the sentiment in its favor is so strong, that the test of experience is the right answer. We believe, therefore, that the experiment should be tried, after the enforcement provisions of the bill have been so amended as to provide the greatest possible protection against the abuses which its critics foresee.

the week

AFRO-American

Dewey Asks $250,000 to Fight Jim Crow

2-17-45 Ind.

By CARL MURPHY

Those who criticized Governor Dewey because he opposed a hastily drawn anti-discrimination bill in the New York Legislature last year are singing a different tune today.

The Dewey commission's report just issued is a be-yew-ti-ful piece of research legislation and planning which will serve as a model for many years. Other States should take the New York plan and sell it to their Governors and legislatures.

Governor Dewey wisely made his commission large enough to include three State Senators and five Assemblymen. Then, with political understanding, he added six Legislators ex-officio. Lay members of the commission numbered fifteen. 2-17-45

There was also a staff of five paid researchers, and one of New York's biggest lawyers, Charles H. Tuttle, served as counsel and drew up the report without pay.

More New York Laws

The commission found New York already has anti-discrimination laws providing for race equality in jury service, public housing, labor unions, public schools, civil service, employment by utilities, by defense plants or on public works. In number and coverage it has more anti-jim-crow laws than any other State.

The commission concluded, after holding hearings in four cities that laws against jim crow are not enough and must be supplemented by a permanent State agency.

$250,000 Asked

So it drew up a bill in which it recommends a permanent New York State anti-discrimination commission of five members, each of whom is to be paid $10,000 a year. The commission is to have $200,000 for expenses.

If the legislature votes these sums, it will be one sure indication that this war on jim crow is going to hurt somebody.

$500 Fine

The commission also asks the legislature to pass a new anti-discrimination law providing a $500 fine and (or) a year in jail—

(a) For any employer who refuses to hire a person because of race, creed, color or ancestry;

(b) For any labor union which denies membership to any person on these grounds;

(c) For any worker or non-worker who aids, incites or compels others to violate this statute.

A company, a union, and employees, all three are thus barred from discriminating against hiring and working with colored people, Jews, and foreigners.

Excluded from provisions of the act are firms employing fewer than six people, fraternal, charitable, religious and social clubs not organized for private profit.

Just First Step 2-17-45

The Dewey commission is out to abolish racial discrimination by education and by law.

It suggests the law against discrimination in hiring as the first step, convinced that "once the people of the State have set foot on this path, advancement on other lines will be more natural and spontaneous."

Dr. Channing Tobias and New Dealers who resigned from the Dewey commission last year because the Governor didn't hurry this legislation must now admit that the delay was advisable.

The commission's work has been done openly before the people of New York State. Citizens and organizations are aroused, the legislature is informed and the proposed bill will, for these reasons, get sympathetic and intelligent action.

Anti-Bias Bill Foes Admit Defeat By 'a Highly Organized Minority

N.Y. Times 2-22-45

By LEO EGAN

Special to THE N

ALBANY, Feb. 21—Opposition to the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill crumbled today under the weight of one of the most formidable political combinations ever to appear in support of a single legislative proposal. 2-22-45

As a result of yesterday's public hearing in the Assembly chamber, where the three major religious groups, the two largest labor union organizations, the two large minority political parties and numerous racial groups arrayed themselves in favor of the measure, Senator Frederic H. Bontecou and Assemblyman William M. Stuart, who had been spearheading Republican opposition, conceded today that the bill would pass without further amendments.

In addition to the potent forces outside the Legislature which are backing the bill, the measure has the active support of Governor Dewey and the accredited Republican leaders in both Senate and Assembly and almost solid Democratic backing.

Mr. Stuart told the Assembly today in a Washington's Birthday speech that he doubted that the opposition could muster forty of the 150 votes in that chamber. Nevertheless, he added, he still believed the anti-discrimination bill was a vicious measure and intended to go down fighting. 2-22-45

Senator Bontecou was equally discouraged today. He said he would make a last effort to obtain the acceptance of an amendment postponing the effective date of the measure until it was approved at a referendum but would vote for the bill with or without amendments. His referendum proposal will be offered to Senate Republicans at a party conference, and if turned down there will not be presented on the floor. 2-2-45

Elmer F. Quinn, Democratic leader of the Senate and a cosponsor of the legislation with Irving M. Ives, Republican leader of the Assembly, introduced today a revised version of the bill to clear the way for action in the upper chamber on Tuesday or Wednesday. The revision makes the Senate bill conform to the Assembly version. It was made necessary by the action of the Ways and Means Committee in approving an amendment removing the requirement that members of the proposed commission devote their full time to their official duties.

A meeting of the Senate Finance Committee has been called for Monday to report out the revised measure.

In conceding in the Assembly today that the opposition had lost its chance to beat the bill, Mr. Stuart maintained, nevertheless, that its advocates represented a minority of the people of the State. At the hearing, "a highly organized, an efficiently and brilliantly organized minority" booted the majority all over the place, he asserted. 2-22-45

"As this propaganda blitzkrieg rolled on," he continued, "I heard some of the legislators opposing this bill say 'let's give up,' but I intende to continue the fight because I still think that the bill is wrong."

Further ammunition for those favoring the bill was furnished today by the State War Council's Committee on Discrimination in Employment, which reported that it had conducted 480 investigations in the first ten months of 1944 in war plants employing 300,000 workers.

More than 90 per cent of the employes involved agreed voluntarily to cease discriminating against racial groups, the report said. Officials of labor unions had also agreed to help overcome discrimination in the admission of applicants to membership, it added.

Discussing the types of discrimination found in its investigation, the report said: 2-22-45

"Some plants use quotas based upon race, color, religion or national origin in the hiring and discharging of their employes, quotas which are discriminatory in effect. Investigations have disclosed that many plants segregate racial groups by bunching them in isolated sections, a practice which is not only discriminatory but one which indues discriminatory attitudes by setting off one minority group against another, usually against the dominant group in the plant. 2-22-45

"The employment of racial, religious or alien groups in menial occupations, or inferior positions without regard to their qualifications, and failure of management to up-grade employes on a basis of equality are some of the other problems that have come to the attention of the committee."

The report said that any discrimination with respect to terms and conditions of employment based on racial or religious grounds would be unfair in the light of the Ives-Quinn bill or concerning the use of separate dressing, sanitary or toilet facilities was regarded as unfair.

Many of the practices listed as compliance with its orders through civil process of the courts or through resort to criminal sanctions in the case of recalcitrant employes.

45c-1945

Anti -Bias Bill

NY Anti-Bias Bill Off to Good Start

AFRO-American 3-10-45

The Dewey Commission's bill to give New York an anti-discrimination law got off to a good start in the Lower House of the State Legislature last week. md.

Likewise, the Labor Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives passed favorably on a measure embodying the best features of thirteen FEPC bills referred to it.

Among those Congressmen whose FEPC bills were thus employed to write the final committee legislation were William Dawson of Illinois, Adam C. Powell of New York, and Frank E. Hook, of Michigan. The latter is the gentleman who called Congressman Rankin a liar and with great restraint did not slap him down. 3-10-45

A comparison of the New York State bill with that of the House shows the two are much the same. It is plain that Congressmen made extensive use of the research and planning contained in the New York State Anti-Discrimination Commission's report which represents a year's work on the part of Irving Ives, Assembly majority leader; Elmer F. Quinn, Senate minority leader; distinguished lawyers like Charles H. Tuttle, and a group of experts.

Congressmen want it clearly understood that their bill proposes economic equality only.

New York State leaders, equally frank, regard their anti-discrimination job measure as only the first step toward combating race prejudice in other situations. New York is that far ahead of the national government.

Here is a digest of both bills: 3-10-45

N. Y. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL	U. S. FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE.
Bill passed N.Y. Assembly 109-32 without amendment.	*Bill reported favorably 5-2 by House Labor Committee.*
PURPOSE — To eliminate any discrimination in employment because of race, creed, color or national origin.	**PURPOSE**—Same as New York.
DECLARATION — The opportunity to secure employment without discrimination is declared to be a civil right.	**DECLARATION**—The right to work free from discrimination is an immunity of the citizens of the U. S.
DEFINITION — Unfair labor practice is refusal to hire or promote a worker, refusal to admit him to union membership, or incite others to do so.	**DEFINITION** — Same as New York.
COMMISSION SETUP — Five members, salary $10,000 each. Five-year term.	**COMMISSION SETUP**—Same as New York.
PROCEDURE—Public hearings, issuance of cease and desist orders by commission if complaint is justified.	**PROCEDURE** — Same as New York.
JUDICIAL REVIEW — Appeal to Supreme Court of State.	**JUDICIAL REVIEW**—Appeal to a U. S. Circuit Court.
PENALTY—Not more than a year in jail; not over $500 fine.	**PENALTY**—Contempt of court.

3-10-45

When the bill came before the New York State Legislature last week, Senator Coudert, at the suggestion of business interests, sought a delay and requested a public hearing.

The result was astounding. Five hundred persons showed up, the great majority of them for the bill, and representatives of one Statewide organization after another snowed under the businessmen's cry that New York should not be the first to try something new.

Why shouldn't New York lead the way? asked the venerable Jewish rabbi, Stephen S. Wise, and from then on the opposition was not only outnumbered, but overwhelmed.

10-Year-Old Answers Villard

One of the opponents of the New York bill was aging Oswald Garrison Villard. He will be 73 next week. When he writes of himself, he recalls that he is the grandson of William Lloyd Garrison, the abolitionist. 3-10-45

Recently Mr. Villard, unlike his grandfather, took the southern view which says—you cannot solve the race question by legislation; go slow, the remedy is education.

He got an answer from 10-year-old Paul Coburn, who made a trip from New York to Albany to read a statement which his whole class helped him to write.

How Paul came to be at the hearing urging the passage of the bill was told in last week's AFRO. The statement he read was applauded for five minutes, and we reprint it here for Mr. Villard.

"Some people," said Paul, "favor education, but it might take ten or fifteen or even fifty years. Our class believes you should legislate and educate."

What Happened in Philadelphia

3-10-45

Not so dramatic, but far more effective an answer to Mr. Villard's thesis that colored and white cannot be compelled by law to work together was that of Whitman Knapp in the New York Times, Friday.

Mr. Knapp tells how the Philadelphia Transit strike arose out of the hiring of colored motormen and that it was settled virtually at the point of the bayonet. Today, some months after the strike, these are the results:

1. Colored and white are working together, sharing common lockers and eating together.

2. The policy of hiring and upgrading colored workers has passed the risk stage. A colored supervisor has authority over colored and white foremen.

3. Colored trainmen, having become proficient, have been assigned to the training of white employees.

4. The union, with a membership of 2,200 white and 900 colored persons, has a colored vice-president.

5. It is the feeling of the company and the workers that the strike, though deplorable, educated the public and resulted in the improvement, rather than the deterioration, of race relations. 3-10-45

And what has happened in Philadelphia has been repeated in half dozen other cities where colored motormen, conductors and telephone operators have been put to work by FEPC order.

Anti-Discrimination Bills In 10 State Legislatures

p.m. N.Y. 3-18-45

Measures Follow Ives-Quinn Lead In North

3-18-45

By J. S. Qualey

By enacting the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill into law, New York State has broken the ice of racial misunderstanding for a number of other Northern states.

Ten states so far this year have followed New York's lead and have similar fair employment practice bills on their legislative calendars. As Robert L. Carter, legal research assistant for the New York City office of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People put it:

3-18-45

"The reaction in the states has been amazing. Anti-discrimination measures seem to be winning more popular support than any other type of social legislation."

Bills similar to New York's have been introduced in the legislatures of Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Washington, Indiana, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Colorado and Kansas.

Lineup of Bills

Here's how the legislation in the various states shapes up:

NEW JERSEY: Two bills introduced, one by Republicans, another by Democrats. Former has best chance because it has been indorsed by Republican Gov. Walter Edge. Favored bill provides for: non-paid enforcement commission within State Dept. of Education; $500 fine and or 90 days in jail for violators. Hearings on bill to be held this week.

MASSACHUSETTS: Publically supported in open legislative hearings by high-ups in Catholic Church, which means bill has good chance of being adopted. Establishes commission within State Dept. of Labor and Industries. Commission to set policies, investigate complaints, issue orders requiring employers to abandon unlawful employment practices. Courts empowered to review and enforce commission's orders. Penalties provided. 3-18-45

CONNECTICUT: Bill closely related to Massachusetts measure. Sets up commission within Dept. of Labor with five members appointed by Governor and appointed for three-year, staggered terms. Affirms right of every individual to obtain employment. Domestics and employes of religious organizations exempted. Penalties provided.

INDIANA: Confirms in major points with Connecticut and Massachusetts bills. Bill now in Ways and Means Committee.

Has Good Chance

PENNSYLVANIA: Almost identical to Connecticut measure. NAACP reports chances for passage good.

MICHIGAN: Creates board of four full-time members appointed by Governor. Calls for biennial report to chief executive. Lists unfair employment practices. Also bans discrimination in pay, hours and jobs because of sex. Affects only employers hiring eight or more persons. Includes a comprehensive educational program against racial antagonism. Penalties provided. Chances for passage dubious because Republican Gov. Harry F. Kelly has taken an evasive stand on

Same regulations extend ers. Exempts employers having less than five employes, nonprofit organizations, domestic help, farm help and casual labor. Outlines enforcement procedure. Provides penalties.

Individuals, organizations and legislators in a number of other Northern states are drafting anti-discrimination legislation for presentation to their legislatures this

Unions Included

KANSAS: Establishes fair employment practice commission of five members appointed by Governor and appointed for three-year, staggered terms. Affirms right of every individual to obtain employment. Domestics and employes of religious organizations exempted. Penalties provided. Includes labor unions. Chances for passage good.

WASHINGTON: Half-way measure because it merely outlaws discrimination in employment. Applies only to labor unions as well as employers. Penalties provided. Chances for passage good. Summer.

COLORADO: Differs from Connecticut bill mostly in that it invests State Industrial Commission with enforcement powers. Prohibits unfair practices because of race, color, tenure of, or application for, membership in labor unions

3-18-45

year. NAACP estimates that at least 14 bills in all will be introduced in the various states. NAACP has been instrumental in almost every instance in the preparation and promotion of the State bills. The organization's theory is that Congressmen will be much more kindly inclined toward Federal permanent fair employment practices bill if their own state adots such a measure. The NAACP, with 748 local chapters has active branches in all the states except Montana, New Hampshire, Vermont, South Dakota and Maine.

Jim-Crow Repeal Is Defeated By Voice Vote in Md. House

Washington Post
3-21-45

Annapolis, Md., March 20 (AP).—The Senate-approved "Jim Crow" bill, which would repeal a 41-year-old law requiring separate accommodations on trains and steamboats for white and Negro passengers, was dealt a death blow today when the House voted to adopt an unfavorable report of its judiciary committee.

Backed by Governor O'Conor and the subject of several public hearings at which supporters and opponents voiced their views on racial segregation, the measure went down to defeat quickly and without much of a struggle on the part of administration forces.

The bill passed the Senate February 15, 20 to 9, with no debate, and was reported to the House floor today with a 16-9 unfavorable report of the judiciary committee. It was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Altfeld (D., Balto. 4th). The bill has been introduced in the Maryland Legislature each session since 1922.

Chairman Tolle (D., Balto. County) of the committee, in a futile attempt to save the repealer, moved that the bill be substituted for the unfavorable report, and was seconded by Delegate Sklar (D. Balto. 4th). 3-21-45

Delegate Kolb (D., Wicomico), pointing out the committee vote was better than half its membership of 27, said it "has always been the practice of the House, generally speaking, to uphold its committees," and asked that Tolle's motion be defeated.

When Speaker White (D., Prince George's) called for a voice vote, the roar of "no's" from the county delegations—especially the Eastern Shoremen—resounded through the State House. Kolb then moved that the unfavorable report be adopted, and another roar of "ayes" swept through the halls, sending several Senators over to inquire what was taking place.

Several delegates, who asked that they not be quoted by name, said that if the Administration forces had demanded a roll call, the bill would have picked up additional support, but far from enough for passage. 3-21-45

"Most of the members," said one delegate, "seemed satisfied that the controversial subject was gotten out of the way with no debate, and without a roll call placing them on record.

Thinks God Decrees Inequality

Courier Journal
Louisville

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

Governor Dewey has contributed, through signing the equality bill and making it a law, to what may turn out to be a most serious condition in New York and the rest of America. 3-17-45

Beginning at the top with America, England, Germany, France and every other country in the world, there has never been and never will be social equality among the masses. God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to mark every race on the globe with some distinguishing feature to the niche which its people must fit into.

There is no power on earth that can successfully redefine the position in life which God has chosen for the different classes and races. Mr. Dewey's actions, backed up by a lot of fanatical people, could very easily start a race riot in this country that would end in great disaster to both races. There never has and there never will be any basis on which all men, regardless of their color, will be made equals because the scheme of humanity is not based upon any such idea.

SID SCHULTZE.

Louisville.

45c-1945

90 GROUPS TO URGE ANTI-RACIAL BILL

New York Times
2-19-45

Requests for Speaking Time at Tomorrow's Hearing Pour In—Vote Next Week

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Feb. 18—In an effort to convince the Legislature that there is a strong public demand for enactment of anti-discrimination laws this year, advocates of the Ives-Quinn bill have mobilized representatives of more than ninety labor, social service, Negro and religious groups to appear at Tuesday's joint hearing before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. 2-19-45

Employer and labor organizations who are opposing enactment of the bill for the reason that it will, in their opinion, incite racial tension, will send representatives of only a dozen organizations to the hearing.

Supporters of the bill say they are optimistic over the chance of passage following Governor Dewey's stand last week in favor of the legislation. The Ives-Quinn bill will come up for its first vote in the Assembly next week.

Opponents of the measure are concentrating on effecting changes in the bill before it receives final approval. They demand changes that would submit the whole legislation to a referendum, removal of the penalty clause that makes interference with the proposed commission a misdemeanor as well as contempt of court, and insertion of a provision that would require proof that a complainant had been discriminated against in employment. 2-19-45

Those Who Request to Be Heard

As the bill now reads the proposed commission could take action if it found there had been discrimination on the ground of race, creed, color or national origin.

Among those requesting time to present arguments in favor of the bill are Dr. Philip Swartz of the New York State Council of Churches, the Rev. Richard Morford of the United Christian Council for Democracy, the Rev. Wayne White of the Methodist Federation of Social Service, Stanley M. Isaacs of the United Neighborhood Houses, the Rev. Kenneth C. Walker of the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, Alan Tomchin of the United Automobile Workers, CIO; Douglas L. MacMahon of the Transport Workers Union, Nathaniel M. Minkoff and Samuel Shone of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of the Union for Democratic Action.

Also William H. Baldwin of the National Urban League, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., and Peter V. Cacchuone, Councilmen from New York City; George Marshall of the Federation for Constitutional Liberties, Charles Evans Hughes Jr., chairman of Mayor La Guardia's Unity Committee, and Henry Epstein of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

M. D. Griffith, executive vice president of the New York Board of Trade, will act informally at the hearing as the leader of the groups opposing the legislation. Among the organizations that have requested an opportunity to present views against it are the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, Bronx Board of Trade, Queens Chamber of Commerce, Buffalo Chamber of Commerce, New York Board of Trade, Real Estate Board of New York; Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, West Side Association of Commerce, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Broadway Association, Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York and the Council of Employment Agencies.

LAWS AGAINST BIAS HELD INEFFECTIVE

N.Y. Times

Realty Group Urges Several Changes to Make Ives-Quinn Bill More Workable

2-19-45

The Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, which administers and negotiates agreements involving employment conditions in the building service field here, took exception yesterday to many of the proposals embraced in the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill now before the State Legislature, expressing the view that the question of bias could not be solved by legislation, and suggesting several amendments to the bill "to remove injustices and facilitate procedure."

In a statement issued by William D. Rawlins, executive secretary, the Realty Advisory Board suggested changes that would call for "the use of reason rather than rigidity in determining any question as to discrimination," place administration under the State Labor Relations Board rather than under some new board or commission, and provide "safeguards against a deluge of frivolous and unfounded 'charges' of bias."

Anti Bias Bill

The realty group also suggested elimination of exemptions for religious, charitable and educational institutions, on the ground that such bodies "should at least share responsibility under the law for bringing about objectives reflecting the dictates of religious idealism." 2-19-45

A statement by the State headquarters of the American Labor party, made public yesterday by Benjamin Fielding, executive secretary, declared that the supposedly unanimous position of the New York State Chamber of Commerce in opposition to the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill was at variance with a vote of its members taken on Jan. 4.

The statement asserted that a committee report recommending that the most constructive action that could be taken at the time would be not to oppose the legislation was first adopted by a vote of 52 to 51 and after "some confusion, defeated by a vote of 54 to 53."

the week.

Afro-American Md.

Dewey Asks $250,000 to Fight Jim Crow

2-17-45

By CARL MURPHY

Those who criticized Governor Dewey because he opposed a hastily drawn anti-discrimination bill in the New York Legislature last year are singing a different tune today.

The Dewey commission's report just issued is a be-yew-ti-ful piece of research legislation and planning which will serve as a model for many years. Other States should take the New York plan and sell it to their Governors and legislatures.

Governor Dewey wisely made his commission large enough to include three State Senators and five Assemblymen. Then with political understanding, he added six Legislators ex-officio. Lay members of the commission numbered fifteen.

There was also a staff of five paid researchers, and one of New York's biggest lawyers, Charles H. Tuttle, served as counsel and drew up the report without pay.

More New York Laws

The commission found New York already has anti-discrimination laws providing for race equality in jury service, public housing, labor unions, public schools, civil service, employment by utilities, by defense plants or on public works. In number and coverage it has more anti-jim-crow laws than any other State.

The commission concluded after holding hearings in four cities that laws against jim crow are not enough and must be supplemented by a permanent State agency.

$250,000 Asked

So it drew up a bill in which it recommends a permanent New York State anti-discrimination commission of five members, each of whom is to be paid $10,000 a year. The commission is to have $200,000 for expenses.

If the legislature votes these sums, it will be one sure indication that this war on jim crow is going to hurt somebody.

$500 Fine 2-17-45

The commission also asks the legislature to pass a new anti-discrimination law providing a $500 fine and (or) a year in jail—

(a) For any employer who refuses to hire a person because of race, creed, color or ancestry;

(b) For any labor union which denies membership to any person on these grounds;

(c) For any worker or non worker who aids, incites or compels others to violate this statute.

A company, a union, and employees, all three are thus barred from discriminating against hiring and working with colored people, Jews and foreigners.

Excluded from provisions of the act are firms employing fewer than six people, fraternal, charitable, religious and social clubs not organized for private profit.

Just First Step

The Dewey commission is out to abolish racial discrimination by education and by law.

It suggests the law against discrimination in hiring as the first step, convinced that "once the people of the State have set foot on this path, advancement on other lines will be more natural and spontaneous." 2-17-45

Dr. Channing Tobias and New Dealers who resigned from the Dewey commission last year because the Governor didn't hurry this legislation must now admit that the delay was advisable.

The commission's work has been done openly before the people of New York State. Citizens and organizations are aroused, the legislature is informed and the proposed bill will, for these reasons, get sympathetic and intelligent action.

STATE BAR TO FIGHT ANTI-RACIAL BILL

N.Y. Times
2-18-45

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, Feb. 17—New opposition to the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination bill was expressed today by the executive committee of the State Bar Association. The organization will protest the proposal Tuesday at a public hearing at the Capitol. An announcement by Lewis C. Ryan, president of the association, said: 2-18-45

"The committee's grounds of opposition and its views on discrimination will be fully stated at the hearing by Whitney North Seymour, chairman of the association's committee on civil rights."

The executive committee is made up of sixty members and is headed by Mason H. Bigelow of New York.

The decision to fight the measure was reached at a meeting of the executive committee at the Fort Orange Club here.

IVES SEES PROMISE IN ANTI-BIAS LAW

New York Times

Opening Harlem Week Here, He Says Effectiveness Depends on Cooperative Efforts

5-29-45

The effectiveness of the Ives-Quinn anti-discrimination law, which becomes operative on July 1, depends on three factors—the personnel of the permanent commission to be set up, the cooperation of employers and employes, and an "attitude of helpfulness" on the part of the minority groups the law is designed to benefit—Irving M. Ives, majority leader of the Assembly and co-sponsor for the measure, declared last night.

Mr. Ives was the principal speaker at a meeting in Town Hall that opened the fourth annual observance of City-Wide Harlem Week conducted under the auspices of the City-Wide Citizens Committee on Harlem. Reports were made and discussions held on topics affecting the Negro and his relation to the community, including religion, housing, education, employment and hospital service.

'Offers Greatest Promise'

With the adoption of the anti-discrimination law, Mr. Ives said, New York State "again asserted its leadership in the nation in the field of progressive, humane legislation." He praised the "steadfast backing and encouragement" of Governor Dewey in giving the Temporary Commission free reign and supporting all of its recommendations and said the plan adopted, admittedly not perfect, "offers the greatest promise of solving the discrimination problem."

The bill centered its efforts on a permanent commission "whose first and chief function would be the elimination of discrimination in employment," Mr. Ives declared, because it was felt that "economic equality is of foremost importance in our society and the field of employment is the most vital area of human activity."

Mr. Ives sounded a warning that frequent use and imposition of the full penalty—a year in jail and a fine of $500—would indicate "that something is fundamentally wrong, which the law cannot correct."

Explaining that the law calls for "conference, conciliation and persuasion" in the first instance, Mr. Ives said these objectives could be attained through "united community effort." But in the final analysis, he asserted, the law's effectiveness depends on the caliber of the commission; the support of employer and worker, in which connection he noted a change for the better in the attitude of business and industry since the legislation was passed; and aid from minority groups who he said should be "alert to discourage and restrain" the tendency of taking undue advantage of the law's privileges and guarantees.

There were some who wished to see the commission fail, Mr. Ives added, urging that "none of us who are its friends contribute unwittingly to the confusion and distrust which some of its enemies may attempt to stir up."

ALBANY, N. Y.
KNICKERBOCKER NEWS
Circ. D. 48,888

JUN 8 - 1945

Anti-Bias Group Balanced And Able, Only Limitation In the Law and the Intent

Mr. Dewey selected the commission to administer his anti-bias law with deliberation. They are a representative group of the body politic, personally impeccable and of adequate intelligence for any human undertaking. They are all sold on the feasibility of their task. They enjoy the confidence and esteem of the civic community. It is a commission beyond reproach.

The law entrusted to them seeks to prevent by education, persuasion or compulsions (fine and imprisonment) the barring from employment of any person because of race, creed or color. Of this authority, Mr. Dewey says, "The members are deeply conscious that the educational aspects are of the first importance."

While the Governor's words are directive, the profound mission of the authorized group is mandated by a specific law—possibly not so specific as it should be—under which the liberty of the citizen might be taken from him for refusal to associate in employment with persons distasteful to him. Within those wide lines, the lattitude of judgment by the members lies.

The anti-bias law is the first social undertaking of its kind in America. It is a project endorsed by the Republican Party, when Mr. Dewey was its presidential candidate, and rejected by the Democratic and now a political football in Congress. These facts give the state an exclusiveness that has been viewed by the administration as prestige. Really, it is a tremendous responsibility. It may be doubted whether or not the prestige of being the first to act weighed against the great need to formulate the best possible law. Frequently society runs too fast to read.

There are some burdens imposed upon the commission that might be regarded as limitations. Outstanding is the fact that, while the law guarantees there shall be no discrimination in employment, it is a fact that five national labor unions exclude Negroes from membership by their constitution and many others do so in practice, but neither the Executive in his pronouncements or either political party has pledged that the law shall be enforced equally against the labor union and the employer. Your newspaper has called repeatedly upon Mr. Dewey and his party to make such a commitment, yet none has been made and now, the emphasis upon accomplishment by education is far from encouraging.

But the emphasis on distributed representation could be of extreme help toward successful administration. On the commission are representatives who have fought long and hard against the abuses upon their groups. They continue this trust. There too, is a Labor representative, whose influence is bound to be important in the constructive interpretation of an untried law. We repeat, the distribution of representation is of vast significance.

In the final analysis, where the course of a law is uncharted, there is a continuing responsibility upon the administration to observe faithfully application and to ask the Legislature for any needed correctives; upon the racial groups for meticulous fairness in the exercise of rights, upon the commission for requesting changes in the law as becomes necessary, and upon the public for an alert interest in one of the greatest of our social undertakings.

Musicians Union Says No Mixed Bands Here

SAN FRANCISCO — The local musicians' union recently barred white and Negro musicians from recording together. The local union has long banned mixed bands in public. The action apparently had the backing of James Petrillo.

Huddy "Lead Belly" Ledbetter was denied the use of three white musicians on a recording date.

Public Poll Opposes Jimcrow

Daily Worker N.Y. 3-13-45

DENVER, March 11 (FP). — Unions barring Negroes from jobs as railroad engineers are heading for a clash with American public opinion as well as the courts.

Seventy-two percent of white people in the U. S. believe that Negroes qualified to be railroad engineers should be given a chance at the job, according to a nation-wide survey by the Natl. Opinion Research Center. As many as 82 per cent in the North, ... only 43 percent in the South, would give a Negro a chance at the job.

The NORC, in announcing these results March 10, pointed out that public attitudes on this issue are of particular interest in view of the recent decision of the U. S. supreme Court, which denied the right of the Bro. of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (unaffiliated) to enforce contracts discriminating against Negro engineers and firemen.

George J. Abrams, chief investigator of the Honest Ballot Association, under whose supervision ballot counting was conducted.

Neal Hanley, who was acting secretary and a director of the AMU, and runner up of four candidates in the election, was the first to congratulate Smith.

Smith, expressing appreciation for the confidence the membership has again placed in him, said his victory was a victory over the forces represented by the World-Telegram.

Smith has since qualified and was eligible to run for reelection.

Capital Transit Firm In Same Spot As PTC

Philadelphia Tribune Pa.
1-20-45

By ALLEN GRENVILLE
Special to Philadelphia Tribune

WASHINGTON,— Whether Washington will follow Philadelphia and lower the employment barriers against Negro trolley car and bus operators is the important question being aired this week in the Nation's capital—and Philadelphia and Philadelphians are figuring in it, both directly and indirectly.

The Capital Transit Company here has followed the same line that PTC followed for over a year and right up to last August's week-long strike. In the opening of public hearings on Monday by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, in the U. S. Court of Appeals Building, company spokesmen said: 1-20-45

"White Capital Transit workers will not work with Negroes."

"Most of our workers are southern and Washington is different from Detroit or Philadelphia." (PTC had said that "A large number of our workers are from the South and Philadelphia is more like Washington than like Detroit or Chicago where Negroes run trolleys and busses.")

"Our white workers would rather quit for good than work with Negroes," Capital Transit continued.

"We have no prejudice whatever against Negroes; in fact, we would be glad to employ them, except for our white workers."

"Employment of Negroes will lead to violence against Negroes." 1-20-45

It could have been the Philadelphia situation all over again.

Like Philadelphia, too, this case has been hanging fire for months—really, two years. It began when fourteen Negroes submitted their complaints to FEPC, that, while Capital Transit was advertising in many states for operators, the company continued refusing local Negroes for operator's jobs. Since then, over 328 Negroes have applied, or have been referred, to CTC. Their applications have been pigeon-holed.

The company prides itself that in 1943 it attempted to train a single Negro operator, but that instructors refused to take him out, and, further, that all operators at the Bennings carbarn refused to work that day. This lone Negro—one B. A. Simmons—was then pulled out of training, and the company had a janitor's job waiting for him. He refused to be a janitor.

Mrs. Evelyn Cooper, FEPC trial attorney, brought out, however, that the company did nothing to discipline the white instructor or the white operators who had refused to work because of Simmons. The strikers' won and became strengthened against the utilization of Negro operators. The company's action was "due to unwillingness rather than inability" to comply, Miss Cooper stressed.

The company called to its defense, Paul Lunt, social science investigator, who was also called in by PTC. Lunt and Edmund L. Jones, company attorney, carried the ball for the company. From pages upon pages of figures, and amid an avalanche of research terms, he showed how 225 white CTC operators had reacted to certain questions asked them as to what they would do about Negro fellow-operators. He tried to show that his investigation was scientific and "unguided." His findings were along these lines: 1-20-45

Not only did 70 per cent of the whites interviewed declare they would walk out, he reported, but 40 per cent qualified to instruct colored men openly refused to give them training. Interviewed in their homes, 18 per cent of the men were reported able to "afford to quit permanently," and 29.8 per cent believed "bodily violence" would attend Negro hiring.

But Lunt's position did not stand long. FEPC called to rebut him Dr. Louis Wirth, dean of the social science department and professor of sociology at the University of Chicago. Dr. Wirth spiritedly denied that the Lunt study was "unguided" or uninfluenced. He pointed out:

1. The study was sponsored by the Labor-Management Committee of CTC.

2. Every worker questioned knew that the study was going on.

3. The interviewers went to the home of 225 workers, told them why they were there, etc.

4. The questioning was done during the heat of debate over the use of Negroes.

5. Lunt considered what the 225 workers said—but did not weigh the fact that a large number of workers would not, or did not, express themselves at all on a number of the important questions.

Dr. Wirth finally said that "attitudes are acquired and attitudes can be changed." He added: "Prepare the ground work; let the workers know the rules of the game—the law of the land, the democratic creed. Then assume goodwill on all sides, and firmly and resolutely do the things to be done."

Besides Mrs. Cooper, white, graduate of the University of Michigan and with experience both in government and as a lawyer, FEPC is also represented by Atty. George E. C. Hayes, assistant professor of law, Howard University, and counsel for a number of labor organizations.

The members of FEPC sitting for the hearing were: Malcolm Ross, chairman; Mrs. Sara Southall, Chicago; Atty. Charles H. Houston, Washington; Milton P. Webster, Chicago; John Brophy, Washington, D. C.; Boris Shishkin, Washington.

FEPC brought out that the labor shortage in Washington is such that last December (1944) there were days when Capital Transit had to keep as high as 53 trolley cars and 46 buses idle in its barns.

Capital Transit's figures show a total of 3,981 whites and 525 Negroes. There are 2,481 platform operators, none Negroes; there are 349 skilled whites, 15 Negroes; 442 semi-skilled whites, 234 Negroes; 47 unskilled whites, 177 Negroes.

In his opening statement, Chairman Ross stated that most of the cases handled by FEPC had been settled without public hearing and without disruption of production. 1-20-45

He pointed also to the nearly 200 Negro men and women operators employed in Chicago for the first time since October, 1943; he revealed peaceful integration of Negro operators in Los Angeles, and to some 1100 Negro operators in Detroit.

The hearings in the dignified, draped chambers of the U. S. Court of Appeals have been orderly. Among spectators have been the superintendent of police, Major Edward J. Kelly, about whom Negroes in Washington have the highest praise. They believe come what may, Major Kelly will act EARLY to enforce law and protect the right of Negroes, as well as of all citizens.

It is Major Kelly—a career policeman—who has stopped police brutality here. He has dared to name full-fledged Negro police lieutenant—and to use him without racial discrimination.

It is news in Washington when Negroes can praise a chief of police.

The Capital Transit hearing closed Tuesday. Several persons testified but none was reported present from the the Capital Transit union—the Amalgamated Association Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of American, A. F. of L.

Philadelphians seen at the hearing were Atty Maceo W. Hubbard, FEPC Hearings Section and G. James Fleming, Regional director, FEPC.

Discrimination After Reconversion Feared

Atlanta Daily World
9-15-43

WASHINGTON —(ANP)— Discrimination in industry, orginally anticipated to reveal itself strongly in lay-offs occasioned by contact cancellations, may find greater emphasis in the rehiring of workers by reconverted plants, according to Eugene Davidson, assistant FEPC field director

Davidson has just returned to Washington from a visit to many of the field officers of the agency, and is probably the first officials concerned with the problem of discrimination in industry who has had opportunity to appraise the situation in the country at large since the Japanese surrender.

"Some evidence of discriminatory lay-offs were found although in some instances, particularly in Detroit, the closing down of entire plants precluded a finding of such discrimination in these plants," Davidson said.

ACUTE PROBLEM SEEN

"The problem is expected to become increasingly acute as rehiring begins," he added "Already regional offices have reported the reappearance of discriminatory specifications on hiring orders to employment offices."

So complete were the effects of contact cancellations, said Davidson, that it was not a matter of selective lay-offs-it was wholesale in many instances. There were instances, he pointed out, where employers desiring to retain a few employes kept them on in "custodial or maintenance positions."

The observation was made also that with such large lay-offs the usual grievance machinery of unions became paralyzed or nonexistent since few shop employes were left to constitute such groups who are being transferred from other agencies closing down because of the emergency's end.

Declaring that there are specific instances where Negro applicants holding ratings in the professional grade have been referred to agriculture only to be told no vacancies exist in that grade, local newspapers and organizations are interesting themselves in the case. 10-18-45

It is said that white applicants of professional grade are being accepted while Negroes following right behind those whites are told no vacancies exist in that particular grade. They then, according to the reports, are offered jobs at a lower rate and in a different classification.

The difference in grades con-

Job Jim Crow In Ag. Dept.

The Savannah Tribune
Savannah Ga.

Washington. (ANP)—Criticism is being leveled at the department of agriculture for alleged discrimination against Negro workers

45c-1945

RALEIGH, N. C., CAROLINIAN
JUNE 2, 1945

LAST HIRED AND FIRST FIRED

It has often been said that the Negro is the last hired and the first fired. But it appears that the U. S. Army is going to change that Negroes were inducted into the army from the very beginning of our preparedness plan long before Pearl Harbor, and the quota system has been meticulously followed as to the order and proportion in which they have been accepted for service. There has probably never been a more scrupulous respect paid the Negro's rights as a minority in this country than has been the case of his rights to be properly and proportionately represented in the armed services.

Unfortunately this punctilious regard for proportional representation stopped with induction. Among other things, Negro soldiers are not being released from the army in numerical proportion. They are not being included in large numbers, for once, among the "first fired." Since Negroes are predominantly in the service forces, and since the service forces are among those most and first needed for transfer to the Pacific Theater, a goodly proportion of them may look forward to continued service.

Most of them are doubtless ready and willing to serve their nation when and where needed; but the fact remains that they are in an unlucky position. In addition to the fact that a disproportionate number will be delayed in their discharge and return home, they are more likely than the others to arrive when peacetime re-employment will be at a low ebb. In other words, they may be really, on that end, the last hired.

Discrimination

Sleeping Problem Hinted as Basis for Union Bias

afro-American

afro-American

Local Admits Barring Colored Over-the-Road Drivers, but Refuses to Give Reason

DETROIT — Opposition to employment of colored over-the-road drivers by the AFL Teamsters, Local 299, is based on objection of colored and white sleeping in the same truck cabs.

The reason never has been made known publicly by the union, but the tip-off came during examination of William T. McKnight, director of FEPC Region 5 (covering Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan) at the Fair Employment Practice Committee hearings on charges of discriminatory employment methods against the union and ten trucking companies, recently.

6-16-45

Boris Shishkin, AFL representative on the FEPC, queried McKnight on the procedure followed in an attempt to adjust the issue before referral to Washington, and one of his questions intimated that the case might have been settled had some sort of segregated system to prevent drivers of both races using the same truck cabs been worked out.

Advocates Segregation

McKnight had started to his seat after the routine examination by FEPC attorneys when Shishkin asked that he be recalled to the witness stand. Upon resumption of questioning, Shishkin asked:

"Did you explore the possibilities of working out some sort of arrangement that would get around the problem of white and colored drivers having to use the same cabs for sleeping purposes?"

McKnight, as well as other witnesses, was startled by the question inasmuch as no mention of such a problem had been made, but he quickly retorted:

"I don't know of any problem. The union never has stated its reason for opposing employment of colored drivers, and it certainly did not occur that there was any problem involving segregation of drivers because of race."

McKnight further emphasized that over-the-road driving represented the best jobs in that class of work, inasmuch as the drivers are not required to handle material; that they are the highest paid jobs, and that union opposition is always the the same when it is a question of employment of colored for skilled or high-salaried jobs.

No Record of Reason

Shishkin, visbly flustered by the answer, then declared, "Surely, you know that there is a question in the minds of some people about the use of the same sleeping facilities for members of the two races."

McKnight replied, "There never was any question in my mind, and there is no record that this was the reason for the union's objection."

The regional director then cited the example of mixed drivers who work to and from Washington and the South, using the same cabs, and asserted that there is no record of any difficulty among them.

Shishkin then sugested that the case might have been settled by the working out of a plan whereby the drivers might rotate in shifts to eliminate the "problem," whereupon Malcolm Ross, committee chairman, interrupted to say the matter was getting away from the issue, and Shishkin snapped, "If this is not material," then what is?"

Union Officials Nasty

Earlier McKnight testified that the union's officials had been "very nasty when approached and just wouldn't talk." He said Cornedy Mathison, attorney for the union, admitted that the organization barred colored from its membership as over-the-road drivers.

When Mathison was asked what he was going to do about it, he replied, "Nothing," and later when asked when something was to be done about it, snapped, "I don't know."

Shishkin is economist for the American Federation of Labor; co-chairman, Labor Policy Committee, OPA; consultant, War Production Board and Federal Housing Auhotrity, and a member of the board of directors of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

6-16-45

Milton Webster, another AFL representative on the board, did not participate in the cross-examination of McKnight.

JC Local Unions Upheld by NLRB

AFRO-AMERICAN

2-14-46

WASHINGTON—(ANP) — Although stating opposition to discriminatory racial practices by labor organizations, the National Labor Relations Board in two cases last week, upheld the principal of jim crow locals of trade unions.

One case involved the Atlanta Oak Flooring Company and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, AFL, and the other, Larus and Brother of Richmond, and the Tobacco Workers' International Union, also AFL.

In the Atlanta Oak case, the board refused to rescind the union's certification as demanded by the company which charged the union with segregation of employees, declaring that there was no evidence of denial of equal representation.

2-14-46

Permits New Election

However, in the Larus and Brother case, the board agreed that the union had excluded the jim crow local in its bargaining contract with the company but made no ruling because the union had relinquished its certification for a new election.

Stating further that it has refused to entertain petitions from representatives barring all-colored locals, it added, "The board has no express authority to remedy undemocratic practices within the structure of union organizations."

NEGRO RIGHTS IN UNIONS

Richmond Daily Tribune 9-23-45

An A.F.L. union in a Richmond tobacco plant employing both whites and Negroes segregated its Negro members in a separate local. The practice was presented for review to the national labor relations board when a CIO union attempted to organize the same plant. The labor board was asked to declare the general principle that a union which segregates its members because of race, or which refuses to accept Negro members, cannot be certified as a bargaining agent under the Wagner act.

The board refused to do this, asserting that it was not empowered by congress to take such action. It is refreshing to find the NLRB admitting, at this late hour, that there is anything that it cannot do because of a mere lack of congressional authority, but the action could hardly have been taken in a worse cause.

The labor board did hold that any union certified as a bargaining agent must represent all employes equally, regardless of their race or whether they are union members. In this the board did no more than follow the mandate of the Supreme court in the recent case of Negro locomotive firemen on southern railroads.

By its refusal to lay down the general principle that a union that discriminates among its members because of race cannot be certified as a bargaining agency the board demonstrated once more what has been apparent from the inception of the Wagner act—namely: That that law, as written and administered, was not for the benefit of working people or even of union members, but for the benefit of unions as organizations and of union bosses.

7-14-45

The board's finding has served, however, to call once again to the attention of congress that the law should be amended to penalize racial discrimination by unions. The remedy can be applied by congress and it will be far more effective than the fair employment practices commission has been or can be.

Mexico Asks Fair Play For Its Workers in U. S. A.

P.M. New York City, N.Y. 9-23-45

CIO Seeks Senate Probe of Treatment Railway Laborers Receive

By Erwin van Swol

PM Exclusive

Representatives of the Mexican Government are conferring with U. S. officials in an effort to get a square deal for the 65,000 imported Mexican laborers now working on our wartime-worn railroads.

Francisco Trujillo Gurria, Mexican Minister of Labor, left for Washington after confering here with Jose Antonio Coutolenc, Consul General in New York.

Sen. James E. Murray (D., Mont.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, is being urged by Francis McMahon, international representative of the United Railroad Workers of America, CIO, and church groups to investigate treatment of the Mexicans recruited to help fill our wartime manpower gap.

9-23-45

175 Labor Camps

The New York Central, Pennsylvania, New Haven, Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, Lehigh Valley, Erie, Boston & Maine and Long Island railroads maintain 175 camps for such workers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, but no government system has been set up for supervising working and living conditions. In many cases the only interpreters are those among the Mexicans who happen to speak a little English.

As a result there have been reports to the Consulate here of Mexican laborers signing away workmen's compensation rights when injured on the job, or taking nominal sums in full payment. Some of these men were returned to Mexico, as soon as they left hospitals, without any provision by the railroads or U. S. Government for necessary additional medical care.

No Medical Care

9-23-45

Unlike the Mexican farm hands brought across the border to save our crops, the track workers receive no medical care when sick, except at their own expense.

In addition, many of the Mexicans complain that the 3¼ per cent taken out of their pay envelopes for the Railroad Retirement Fund is unfair, since they will return to Mexico when their contracts expire, the last of next March. The deductions will pay off in minute pensions when the men are 65—the life expectancy for Mexican labor of this type is 34—or to their families when the men die.

Murray W. Latimer, chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, told PM that he would urge that Congress enact a law to permit transfer to the Mexican Government of the more than $150,000 monthly now being deducted from the pay of the Mexican track workers now in the U. S. A. This money would be credited to the accounts of the individuals in Mexico's social security fund. The Consul General reports that:

¶ The lack of inspectors and interpreters has resulted in the Mexicans being quartered in a camp near Utica, N. Y., not knowing how to bank their savings or how to send money home. A timekeeper offered to keep their savings for them. But when he disappeared so did the money. One frugal laboror lost $454.91.

¶ In an upstate storm, lightning killed one worker and shocked four others, two badly. Despite the doctor's orders, the four survivors were ordered back to work the next day.

At Pennsylvania Railroad Camp No. 20, Plainsboro, N. J., two Mexican workers have been on a 10-week sitdwon strike. Both were operated on for acute appendicitis, and both incurred bills that would take the rest of their contracts to work off, leaving no or little money for themselves. On that basis, the two refused to work, and are demanding that they be returned home by the railroad.

9-23-45

A number of Mexican workers who returned home and tried to collect the 10 per cent of their pay, which was to have been deposited to their accounts by agreement between the two governments, found no deposits had been made. Mexico has jailed a number of minor officials as a result.

In an effort to improve conditions around New York, the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has assigned a dozen Spanish-speaking men to tour the camps, visit with the laborers, arrange entertainment, show them how to send money home to their families, and get them medical care. As a result, appeals from Mexican workers in other areas for similar services, have been received.

The Pan American Union is urging free medical care for the Mexican track workers and a system for hearings in contract disputes.

FAIR PLAY ON THE JOB

Racial and religious bias in New York state's industries can usually be disposed of by education and persuasion. Such has been the experience of the State War Council's Committee on Discrimination in Employment, which has just made its final report. In the three years of its existence, according to Chairman Alvin Johnson, the committee investigated 2,000 cases. The Negro had most to complain of, but there were also charges of discrimination against Jews, Poles, Catholics and Irish. Nearly all these cases were satisfactorily settled. Employers, unions and employment agencies usually fell into line when the law and the facts were made known. "The alleged horror of some about Negroes working alongside whites is just hooey," Dr. Johnson testifies.

"Labor in New York state is pretty fair-minded and the great majority of employers have been perfectly sympathetic."

Charles C. Berkley, who, with Nicholas S. Falcone, compiled the report, gave warning that the fight for fair play was not finished. He thought a new test would come if cutbacks produced a competition for jobs. There will be plenty of work for the new committee created under the Ives-Quinn bill, which takes over on Saturday. No law and no committee can guarantee every man a job, and in times of scarcity it is not easy to prove just why one man is hired and another refused. But a precedent has been set. It is the public policy of the state of New York, supported by public opinion, that race or religion shall not be the decisive factors in hiring and firing.—New York Times.

Southern Leader Barometer Measures Business

The Worker New York 9-21-45

Backing for Ku Klux Movements

By ABNER W. BERRY

American fascism is conducting an underground organizational drive in the South, Dr. Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, revealed here yesterday.

Dr. Foreman told reporters at a press conference in the Murray Hill Hotel yesterday that the Ku Klux Klan, Christian America, and the Christian War Veterans from the North were becoming active in several Southern states.

"These organizations," Dr. Foreman disclosed, "are financed by Northern business interests who wish to see Southern labor weak and divided."

Dr. Foreman and Dr. Channing H. Tobias, New York chairman of the establishment of government in the Southern people were 75 per cent opposed. Much of the opposition had been organized through the work of the Washington Bureau of the Southern Conference, Dr. Foreman said.

The Conference on Federal Responsibility for Fair Employment Practice will be held at the Hotel Commodore Sunday. Sessions begin at 10 a.m. It will conclude with a dinner in the grand ballroom at 7:30 p.m. The meeting, which will have as one of its purposes more closely the work of the northern liberals grouped around the conference. Our conference at the Commodore this Sunday (Sept. 23) will have as one of its purposes acquainting Northerners with the great danger we face if we allow Northern reaction to use Southern fascist groups without national opposition," he explained.

A poll by the Conference showed 89 percent of Southern editors opposed to Bilbo and Eastland. In the opinion of the Southern editors

Tobias pointed out. "If, as in South Carolina and Georgia, where the Negroes are one-half the population, nothing is done to place them in jobs there can be no prosperity." 9-21-45

Dr. Tobias termed the FEPC "the

45c-1945 D.C. Discrimination

Capital Transit Tells FEP Probe

Chicago Defender Ill. 1-27-45

Negroes Barred In 'White Men's Jobs

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON.—While thousands of war workers shivered in freezing temperature on Washington's street corners trying to get street cars and buses to work, the Fair Employment Practices Committee last week listened to "puny" excuses offered by the Capital Transit company on why idle equipment cannot be put into service because platform jobs are considered "white men's jobs."

The case is considered a test of the President's committee.

For two years the case has been hanging fire, and FEPC trial attorney, Mrs. Evelyn Cooper, charged that the company had maintained a "negative" attitude during the entire period of negotiation. She said the company has been "astute and skillful in its attempts to cope with the manpower problem in every way possible short of employing Negroes."

Edward L. Jones, counsel for the company, claimed that "conscientious efforts" had been made to follow the committee's suggestions but since 80 per cent of their platform employes were born and raised in the South, it would cause a complete work stoppage.

Union Fights Hiring

"The company has no prejudice against hiring Negroes for platform jobs," Jones said, but added, "We do not believe that their employment will relieve the acute manpower shortages on the company's lines."

The Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes of America, AFL, bargaining agent for the employes, has resisted strenuously the employment of Negro operators. The union is reported to have threatened to fine any member $100 who undertook the training of any Negro for such positions. 1-27-45

Testimony offered by T. A. Sager, chief engineer for the Public Utilities Commission, brought out that the company has increased by 215 the number of cars owned from the period January, 1940, to October, 1944. However, the company has decreased by 54 the number of cars actually operated during the period. Increase in bus ownership and decreases in buses actually operated were likewise indicated.

Passengers Increase

Edward A. Roberts, director of traffic highway department, Office of Defense Transportation, said that during the same period the number of revenue-paying passengers hauled by Capital Transit had increased from 9,733,000 to 20,-190,000. 1-27-45

During this period, approximately 233 Negroes made application for jobs as platform operators but except for a half-hearted effort made to train and employ Bernard A. Simmons, applications of the others are gathering dust in the company's personnel files.

Simmons, a quiet-mannered former school teacher and chauffeur, was taken through the required period of instructional training but when he was taken out to the barn for his initial training as operator, trainers one by one refused to help him. For a brief period of approximately 40 minutes the operators pulled a strike, were suspended for 30 minutes and then put back on their runs. The company considered 30 minutes suspension adequate punitive measure for flaunting orders given to each of the operators to instruct Simmons. They dismissed the incident with "we tried."

Among abortive efforts which Mrs. Cooper charged the comany used to meet its schedules in order to by-pass Negroes were: Conversion of two-man cars to one-man operation; lowering of job qualifications; importation of workers from neighboring states of Virginia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Maryland; and employing women for select runs at the price of foregoing seniority privileges for certain male operators. 1-27-45

The company's "star witness" was Paul Lunt, sociologist, employed to survey the attitudes of white operators with respect to the employment of Negroes in the same category. Out of a sampling of 250 employes selected from a total group of 2700, Lunt said approximately 75 per cent had indicated they would walk out if Negroes were employed in this capacity, the larger number giving "lowering of social prestige" as their reason.

Lunt said he used the "unguided interview" method for obtaining these reactions, although he admitted prior informal meetings were held with the employes as a group, during which time the whole plan was explained.

Dr. Louis Wirth, professor of sociology, Chicago university, strongly challenged Lunt's methods, stating that the survey was in "no sense unguided." Dr. Wirth said "attitudes are betrayed rather than expressed," intimating the employes answered more or less as they were expected to answer

Matter of "Public Policy"

He termed the company's attempt at integration with a single trainee "deplorable." Had the company been honest in its attempt, Dr. Wirth asserted, they would have experimented with 20 or more trainees. 1-27-45

Discussing at length the case, the Chicago U. professor said the Capital Transit case was not a "matter of private prejudices and opinions but a matter of public policy."

FEPC Chairman Malcolm Ross cited the successful integration of Negroes as platform operators in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago and Detroit as proof that where a firm decision is made by both management and union to utilize all available manpower, it can be done "without violence"

A total of 4,846 Negroes are employed throughout the country in significant occupations by local transit companies, 2,904 of which are platform operators. The larger number are employed in Detroit, Mich., where a total of 1,500 operate buses and street cars.

Capital Transit President E. D. Merril said it was easier to integrate Negroes in these cities than in the nation's capital where, he claims, a "degree of segregation makes a difference in mental attitudes." 1-27-45

Merril contended his company had tried and failed. To try and and go further, Merril said, would result in "serious," almost "certain," work stoppage.

Under rapid-fire questioning by FEP Committee Member Charles Houston, Merril was bandied into admitting that the company considered platform jobs to be "white men's jobs."

Moreover, he admitted that the total educational job done by the company for the acceptance of Negroes by white platform employes had been a few laudatory articles on the Negro printed in the company's publication.

Lunt testified he attempted no educational program with the men. Merril said the union was not in accord with the steps taken in spite of non-discriminatory claim of the international.

International President W. D. McMahon, in a letter to the Washington local, reminded them of the union's policy and attested that there was "no difference as far as he could find out in the work records of white and Negro operators." 1-27-45

Appearing as witnesses for the President's Committee were Mrs. Edith Hughes, Charles W. Bias Pvt. William Alexander, Frank N Johnson and Bernard Simmons all of whom except Simmons had received no reports from applications they had made to Capital Transit for platform positions.

Alexander Shapiro, CTC personnel director, said the company now employs 3,981 white employes, 2,481 of which are platform employes, and 525 Negroes, none of whom have been so employed.

Chairman Ross said a proposed statement of facts and findings would be made with opportunity for the company to review, correct or supplement information. Following this, final facts and findings will be drawn up and presented to the company with specific directives.

Members of the FEP Committee hearing the case were: Boris Shiskin, John Brophy, Atty. Charles Houston, Miss Sarah Southall, Milton Webster and Chairman Ross. Committee Member Charles Horn was absent.

Transit Tie-Up

The Washington Post 1-28-45

We recall with interest the piety of the Capital Transit Co. a year or so ago when the President's Fair Employment Practices Committee requested it to employ some Negroes as platform operators. The company could not accede to this request, it asserted in highly moral tones, because to do so might precipitate a strike by white employes afflicted with race prejudice. And any interruption of public transportation in the Nation's Capital would be unthinkable. In the face of a wage demand, however, the Capital Transit Co. has shown no hesitation about challenging the intransigeancy of its employes. The unthinkable interruption of public transportation is now in progress.

The irresponsibility of the company affords no excuse, of course, for the irresponsibility of its workers. These workers have now proved themselves to be quite as benighted as the company represented them to be a year ago. They have struck a senseless, needless blow not at the Capital Transit Co. but at the people of Washington. There was no warning of this walkout. It was put into effect in flagrant violation of the contract in force between the company and the union, without any effort to settle disagreements through the orderly procedure of arbitration prescribed by the contract, and in defiance of union leadership. Indeed it was put into effect with such reckless haste as to suggest that the workers who walked out had no real understanding of the enormity of what they were doing. Washington, D. C.

The merits of the dispute between the workers and the company are now necessarily subordinate to the fact of this irresponsibility. Washington cannot be left with an inoperative transit system. If these workers who so childishly disregarded their obligations to the public do not go back on the job at once, the buses and streetcars must be set in motion by other means. Dealing with the problem is made peculiarly difficult through the fact that this community has no government of its own. It must look, therefore, to the Federal Government for intervention and action. 11-7-45

Thousands of Washington citizens suffered inconvenience, and in some cases real hardship, on Tuesday. They are in the role of wholly innocent bystanders. Their welfare must be protected. It is a testimonial to the character of this community that its people met so sudden and crippling a breakdown of an essential service with good nature and with mutual helpfulness. By good fortune, the walkout of transit workers came on a day of almost unparalleled clemency and autumnal beauty—a day on which a walk to work, if feasible, proved to be more a boon than a deprivation. But we cannot always count on the generosity of nature.

Racial Discrimination Charged By OPA Head

Birmingham Age Herald 12-30-45

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 — (AP) — The White House and Civil Service Commission have received assertions from the OPA that some federal agencies discriminate against Negroes seeking jobs. 12-30-45

The OPA made public letters by Administrator Chester Bowles listing "specific instances" in which he said Negroes released by the agency met discrimination when they applied for other government work.

Bowles said specifically that Negroes had difficulty obtaining jobs at the State Department, the Weather Bureau, the Civil Aeronautics Administration and the Naval Research Laboratory. D-14

Last week President Truman authorized publication of a letter he wrote department heads saying that "it has come to my attention that a considerable number of . . . employes have been refused transfer and reemployment . . . solely because of race and creed."

N L R B UPHOLDS JIM CROW LOCAL UNIONS

Memphis World Memphis, Tenn.

7-13-45

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The National Labor Relations board last week decided two cases in both of which the principle of jim-crow locals of trade unions was upheld. One case involved Larus and Brother of Richmond and the Tobacco Workers International union (AFL.) The other was Atlanta Oak Flooring company and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (AFL.)

In the Atlanta Oak case the board said it was "unable to agree that the segregation into separate locals is per se a form of racial discrimination in violation of the national policy (stated in Executive Orders 8802 and 9346) and of the fifth amendment." Using this and other cases as precedent, the board decided similarly in Larus and Brother, and then went to some length to explain its position thusly:

"NO AUTHORITY"

7-13-45

"This board has been vigilant within the limited powers given it by congress to see to it that certifications under the National Labor Relations Board act should not be made the vehicle of discrimination racial practices by labor organizations. We have consistently refused to recognize a petition for representation if the petition proposes, either explicitly or implicitly, to exclude Negroes from the bargaining unit on the basis of race. We have also refused to entertain petitions from joint bargaining representatives which do not admit locals composed of colored employes to the councils of the bargaining organization.... The board has no express authority to remedy undemocratic practices with in the structure of union organizations."

In both decisions the board leaned heavily upon its findings in the Bethlehem-Alameda shipyard case. There it hold that because of the omission of the auxiliary locals in a petition of the Bay Cities Metal Trades council for bargaining rights in west coast shipyards, the petition had to be dismissed. Later the council amended its petition and the board acquiesced.

SEEKS CERTIFICATION

In the Atlanta case the union sought certification but the company contended that it did not represent a majoriy of the employes since the carpenters unions "engage in illegal and discriminatory segregation of employes on the sole basis of race and color.

The board cited its precedent but went on to say that "if it is later shown by appropriate motion that equal representation has been denied to any of the employes in the unit herein after found appropriate because of race, color, creed, or national origin, we will consider rescinding any certification which we may issue herein."

LOCAL UNMENTIONED

In Larus and Brothers it was shown that the AFL union had failed to specifically mention the jim-crow local in the contract concluded with the company although negotiations were carried on with the company by a Negro and white committee from the two locals. It was shown also that the provisiosn of the contract relating to wages, hours and working conditions were equally applicable to the Negro employes. The board felt however, that the AFL union "did fail to perform its full statutory duty under the certification."

The CIO had appealed to the board to outlaw jim-crow locals as a matter of principle, but the board exoused itself as being only a "creature of congress" and could not presume to hold the powers of the legislature.

7-13-45

Since the contract which the AFL union held has now expired and the union has relinquished its certification in favor of a new election, the board held that the issue of discrimination under the old certification is now moot.

45c-1945

General

Jobs Barred to Women Mechanics

NEGROES ALSO KEPT OUT WHEN WORK IS RESHUFFLED

By DOROTHY LOEB Daily Worker

Women and Negro workers shared the brunt in post V-J Day industrial layoffs. That was expected because, last-hired, they were first fired under seniority rules.

But what wasn't expected was that women, who patriotically learned a skill to speed victory over the Axis, would find themselves systematically discriminated against in the distribution of such jobs as there are. New York, NY

However, that's exactly what is taking place. Now that the war crisis is over, a woman lathe operator or a grinder is a drug on the market. Employers are refusing to accept them on jobs paying higher rates at least in the New York area.

I talked to blonde, attractive Nathalie Anthony, 25, of 153 E. 31 St., Manhattan, who worked for the International Projector Co., Brooklyn, during the war as a grinder.

Her eyes flash with anger as she describes how she learned to do skilled jobs that "even few men can do" and she worked a shift from 6:30 p. m. to 5 a. m. (the toughest shift) from October, 1942, through V-J Day, only to be laid off two days after victory.

Only one of 50 girls she worked with on skilled jobs remained in the shops after the layoffs, Mrs Anthony says, and that one was assigned to a different department. But she's not beefing about that. Seniority rules were followed in the firings. 12-15-45

What burns her up is that here she is, trained in a job she likes, experienced in the shop, with a good record of production behind her, but when she applies for a job, she's told: "Sorry, nothing today."

Managements are specifying "for men only' in their requisitions," she added. "I'm not the only one having this trouble. All the girls fired with me are reporting the same difficulties."

HOW IT WORKS

It works like this, Mrs Anthony told me. Girls are rated as "third class" on their jobs. That's about as high as most of them could get in their machinist ratings within the limits of war experience. Managements call for "first class" mechanics and that lets the girls out. If they're not able to work at the trade, their skill will rust before they acquire the experience permitting them to achieve top grades.

She earned $1.15 an hour in her war job, fighting through her CIO union for upgrading, and sticking through the jibes of scornful men shopmates until they grew accustomed to working side-by-side with women. Now the only posts open to her are unskilled, paying around 68 cents an hour.

When she applied at the U. S. Employment Service (USES), no hope of placement was extended. They didn't expect anything would come along in her old line of work. Come back in three months, they told her. She keeps in touch with other girls from her union, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers. Not one placed at her old skill, she says.

NATHALIE ANTHONY
Skilled War Worker, Denied a Job

FIGHTING BACK

Although she's supporting a 4½ year old daughter, Mrs. Anthony thus far is resisting being pushed into a low-rated, unskilled job. The $21 a week unemployment insurance is almost the same as what she would draw from a 68-cent an hour job, after deductions for taxes.

Ruth Young, executive secretary of UE District 4, told me that Mrs. Anthony's plight is general among women war workers. Unions fight to get them placed but the barriers have been hard to lick, she said.

Negro firings average about two for every white worker placed in the post-V-J Day layffs, according to a War Manpower Commission survey made of New York State. At the Sperry Gyroscope Co., where great progress was made during the war in ending discriminatory hiring policies, the ratio of Negroes to whites dropped spectacularly. Where 33 whites were employed for every Negro before victory, now the ratio has risen to 53 to one. Management will be asked to restore the wartime ratio under a proposal now under union consideration, I am told.

NEGROES FIRED FIRST

In some cases, skilled Negroes are also finding it hard to share on an equal scale in such jobs as there are. The only instance of this kind I know of occurred in Buffalo where managements were denying highly paid posts to Negroes and undertaking to push them into low paid fields. 12-15-45

I checked with the Urban League, the National Negro Congress and the Labor Victory Committee on the plight of the Negro since V-J Day and learned that many are accepting low paid jobs in preference to using unemployment insurance while they search for jobs for which they're skilled. Fear that later even the other jobs may not be available is said to prompt this development.

Unemployment insurance authorities have been trying to force workers of all kinds, men and women alike, to go into the low rating jobs, using the threat of cancelling benefits as a club.

45c-1945

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.
P M
Circ. D. 137,100 - S. 136,912
JUL 16 1945

General

NEGRO P. O. SUPERVISORS

THE last issue of The Postal Alliance, official publication of the National Alliance of Postal Employees, has prepared a chart which vividly indicates how Negroes have been neglected in being upgraded in the postal service, despite the long and faithful service records of Negroes in the department.

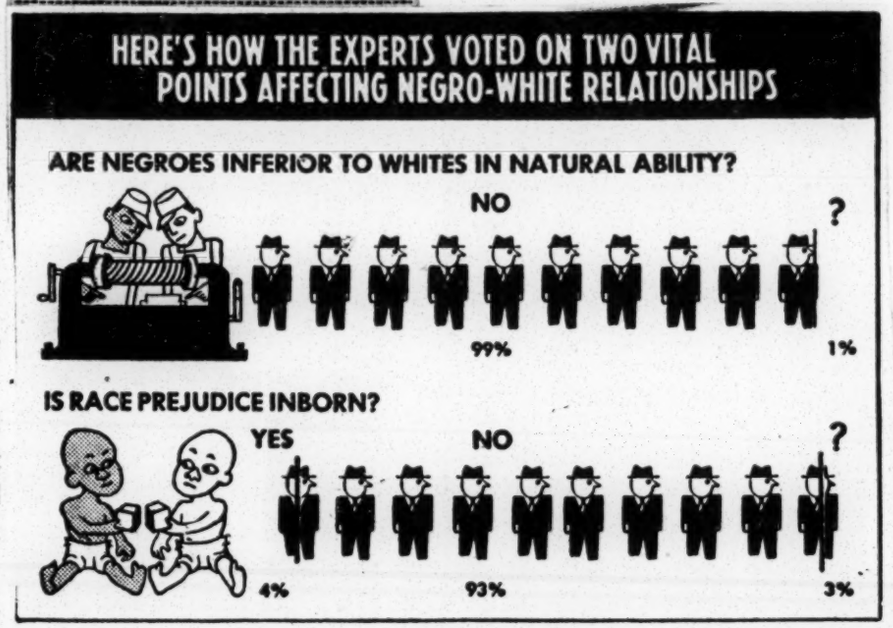
Citing the principal cities as an example, there were listed only 106 Negroes in supervisory capacities although in those cities it was estimated that there were 8,323 Negro employees and 55,696 whites. New York, for example, lead with 18 Negro foremen; 5 assistant superintendents; 1 station superintendents and 30 temporary foremen, for a total of 54 positions out of the 106 listed.

While the editor of the Alliance indicated that the chart might not be as correct as it could have been, yet he said that it presented as accurate information as could be obtained. And therein, we believe, lies the weakness — the apparent unwillingness of Negro employes to stick together, to band together, or to work together for their common well-being.

That there are not more Negroes in supervisory positions in the Post Office Department is not entirely the fault of white people, nor is it entirely the fault of Negroes. Negroes have not taken advantage of the opportunities when they have been open, and there are still many white people who are unaware of the fact that there are Negroes capable of performing jobs in supervisory capacities, merely because Negroes have not made them aware of that fact.

It is not entirely the fault of Negroes, for instance, that promotions to these jobs are more often the reward for service to a political machine. Few of the jobs are promotions given on merit alone. A change of national administration, from one political party to another, often results in wholesale changes, even among station superintendents and foremen.

The fault, we believe, lies primarily in the system — the political system. Until the system is changed, Negroes must fight for what they want and sometimes they'll be rewarded by getting part of what they want.



—Based on American *Magazine poll*

Experts Score Job Barriers As Worst Handicap to Negro

The American *magazine for August, in its* Poll of Experts, *publishes a summary of the opinions of a large group of authorities on race relations on the question: "Should Negroes have equal rights?" The experts, polled by Dr. Arthur Kornhauser of Columbia University, answered with a unanimous Yes—99 per cent held that Negroes were equal to whites in natural ability. Then the experts went on to offer specific suggestions on what is most needed to avoid race troubles here. The following excerpts from the article include their prescription:*

During the war, Negroes have won some new ground in their fight against discrimination and "second-class citizenship." Some of the barriers against them have been lifted in private industry, in government jobs, in the armed forces.

But what will happen when the nation starts readjusting itself to peace and Negro veterans go back to their old towns? Negroes are justifiably apprehensive . . . Our statesmen are apprehensive, too. They know that while we grapple with our race problem in America the eyes of the world will be upon us. Yellow-skinned Asiatics, brown-skinned Indians, Filipinos, Arabs, and Latin Americans, and dark-skinned Africans will be skeptical if we plead for democracy and equality abroad while race riots rage at home . . .

The experts say that one of the greatest necessities is the removal of barriers to jobs. In many occupations Negroes are prevented from working at all; in others they are kept from rising to the extent of their natural abilities . . .

The experts agree in condemning employment practices which refused to give Negroes their full rights. They recommend that the Negro have a fair chance at any job he is qualified to fill—have equal pay for equal work—equal chances for promotion—equal security on the job both in industry and in government service.

A leading recommendation is that laws should be enacted to guarantee against discrimination in employment. No other specific step is recommended nearly as often by the experts. Many mention favorably the new law along these lines in New York State.

A second big necessity mentioned by a number of the experts is that America build better housing for the Negro and stop reserving the hovels and tenements of our worst slums for him. Many of them believe that there is no justification for compelling the Negro to live in segregated districts or in separate housing projects. They recommend that such arrangements be changed at once in the North and as soon as race feelings will permit in the South.

A third need is to give the Negroes a better chance for a good education. The experts declared that we should increase the funds available for Negro education, particularly in the South, and gradually abolish the system that keeps the Negro in separate, and inferior, schools in many areas.

On top of all these needs, the experts say, is a fourth: The Negro must have the right to vote. Men and women deprived of their votes are unable to protect their other rights. They cannot possibly develop into useful responsible citizens. This, the experts insist, is fundamental in a democracy. Many of the experts state that the poll tax and "white primaries" must go.

Several others note the grave need in the South for adequate police forces that will protect Negroes against violence, and for law enforcement that will give the Negro just trials in the courts. Special attention is called to the explosive dangers present in any mistreatment of returning Negro veterans.

Selling Negro Out Charged to Union

Charges of deceit and of selling Negro members down the river were hurled at Local 1 of the AFL Hotel and Club Employees Union last week by Special Organizer Oscar Green who recently organized the chain of Savarin restaurants.

According to Green, newly organized members were guaranteed full union protection if they were discharged for union activity. Two Negro workers, one of whom was James T. Teaque, of 840 St. Nicholas av, were fired from the King of the Sea restaurant, 53 st and 3rd av, two weeks ago. Both men are ardent members of the union and had helped Green in his organizing attempts.

Officials of Local 1, however, have not pressed the case, and have refused to send the men to any jobs accept those available at the so-called "Negro houses," establishments which hire extensive Negro personnel. Among these, Green said, are Penn Station, Hotel New Yorker, The Ships Grill, and Town and Country restaurants. It happens that there are no openings at these places now.

Protesting against the union's policy, Green visited the locals' offices at 218 W 40 st, where he was told that workers are not yet educated to the State FEPC law, and that the union would abide by its current policy.

Face Facts in Negro's Fight For Postwar Jobs

By JULIUS A. THOMAS

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, there will be much speculation regarding the Negro worker's chances for holding on to some of the employment gains he enjoyed during the war. Government agencies and other organizations interested in the job problems of American workers are already reporting on the extent to which cutbacks have and will affect Negro workers. The best estimates indicate that almost 800,000 Negro workers, most of whom were employed in strictly war production industries, may soon be looking for other jobs. About half of this number were laid off during the first month after V-J Day. In another few months, more than a half million Negro veterans will return to civilian life and the vast majority of these men and women will seek better jobs than they had before the war. To a much greater extent than we like to admit, Negro workers are right where they were before Pearl Harbor. There isn't much comfort in this observation, but we may as well face the facts as they are and prepare to deal with them realistically and intelligently.

On the bright side of an otherwise confused picture, we can not afford to overlook certain basic factors which are bound to influence post-war job possibilities. The industrial, commercial, and political leadership of the nation realizes that our system of so-called "free enterprise" will not survive if our economy bogs down in another depression; hence, the nation-wide drive to maintain full employment with the help of government if private sources fail to provide enough jobs.

Assuming that we reach a comparatively high level of employment within the next twelve months, the problem of the Negro worker will be only partially solved. For there is no guarantee that the Negro job seeker will get a desirable job even though he is qualified to fill it creditably. It is this dilemma that intensifies the fears and doubts which most Negro workers entertain about the future.

Remembering the bitter struggle to obtain employment in the early days of the defense program, Negro workers must now gird themselves for another battle against the unreasonable prejudices that have long kept them at the bottom of the economic ladder. Permanent legislation to ban discrimination in employment is the first major engagement in the fight. And having firmly planted the flag of equality of opportunity on that bridgehead, we must press forward until the stigma of second-class citizenship is removed once and for all time.

Local Cabmen Protest Suspension Of Permits

Atlanta Daily World

5-5-45

Discriminatory action without a hearing was charged to a bloc of the city council police committee Thursday night by 45 Negro taxi-cab operators who claimed that certain city council committee members were making an attempt at the semi-monthly meeting of the committee Thursday to revoke their operating licenses in accordance with a report by the Office of Defense Transportation that the drivers were operating without O. D. T. certificates. 5-5-45

Appearing before the committee Thursday night in defense of the taxi operators group and contending that the manner in which the committee was attempting to cancel the licenses of the operators was undemocratic were three attorneys, Lawson F. Turner, Judson Andrews and Homer Glower. They contende dthat the 45 operators had been issued city licenses to operate their taxi-cab, and that no formal complaint had been made against the legality of their operation, except that of a special investigator of the committee who had reported that the cabs must have been operating on black market gasoline, because they did not have ODT certificates, on the ODT complaint to the committee several days ago. 5-5-45

HESTER OUT VOTED

The counsel for the Negro operators argued to the committee that the action against their clients to cancel their licenses at the Thursday night meeting would be discriminatory in that the order would have affected the selected 45 Negro operators when it is a known fact that there are hundreds of whites operating without the ODT certificate.

Following the arguments before the entire committee of council and Mayor William B. Hartsfield, a vote was taken by the committee members. Voting to allow the attorneys representing the Negro operators two weeks to state why the licenses should not be revoked at any time were Committee members Ed A. Gilliam, John T. Marler and Lester Brewer. Voting to revoke the licenses effective Thursday night, May 3, was Committee Chairman Cecil Hester, who contended that he had promised S. J. Keith of the local ODT, that he would do so Thursday night and passing was J. Allen Couch.

Following the hearing before the council committee four of the taxi operators filed an injunction in the Fulton Superior Court against Mayor Hartsfield and members of city council police committee seeking to enjoin the city from revoking their licenses. It was stated that Chairman Hester said several days ago the city licenses of the 45 taxi-operators should be revoked in accordance with the ODT complaint that they were running without ODT certification.

Atlanta, Ga.

Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy ordered a hearing for 9:30 a. m. Friday, but there had been no decision reached from the hearing. The operators will continue to operate at least until their lawyers make a showing two weeks hence or the superior court hands down an order halting their operation.

Letters To the Editor

Atlanta Daily World

LEADER SAYS WORKERS CAN MEET TOGETHER

To the World Editor:

With reference to your front page feature of Sunday, July 15, "UWA-CIO Workers Jim Crowed in Meet," and a letter in reply to this feature of July 18 signed by Mr. J. E. Mathews, Vice-President of Local Union No. 10, UWA-CIO, Atlanta I chanced to read both.

Atlanta, Ga.

First, I wish to advise that I am president of an AFL affiliate composed of Negro and White members. Contrary to Mr. Mathews' statement, "I need not call to you attention to State and City Laws governing such meetings of mixed unions," there is nothing in the Georgia Code of Law or City of Atlanta regulations, as for that matter prohibit Negro and White members from assembling in the same union meetings together. With my limited opportunities and experiences, I know that member of any union should derive the same benefits without being embarrassed, therefore, this question is left entirely to the union.

7-24-45

Any person who read Mr. Mathews' reply and who knows anything about the labor union movement, can clearly see from the implications of his letter, undoubtly the cause for this embarrassing situation comes from inferiority complex of the Negro officers involved.

W. PAUL SMARTT

Hired As Typist At White Firm, Forced To Quit

The Atlanta Daily W

Atlanta Ga.

Hired as a typist with a white firm in the Arcade Building, Miss Nelleau Barrow, a cousin of the Heavyweight Champion Joe Louis, Friday was forced to quit her job after several days' service.

According to J. E. Matthews, of the Acwood Employment Agency, who secure employment of Miss Barrow with the office of Joseph F. Sonntag, distributor for medical specialities, 400 Peachtree Arcade, the young Atlantan was employed with a high efficiency rating. She had been at work one week when the protests started rolling in.

The first letter of warning to Mrs. Sonntag, whose husband is overseas was as follows:

Atlanta Georgia is--10-21-45
South of
The Mason-Dixon Line-not
NORTH-of-Same

The second letter said:

"We earnestly wish Mr. Sonntag were here. We could talk "Turkey" with a man. Ways and means are still available for Southern people to resent a slap in the face Therefore you are now notified that the persons here whom have always been kind and considerate to you--do not desire to be acquainted with you longer.

10-21-45 Approximately--
The Whole 4th Floor"

The third letter to Mrs. Sonntag read:

"We understand that the colored is leaving. None of us criticize her at all. We wish her well--among her people. But, the occupant of this office has perpetrated something that WE don't like. We cut your acquaintance. Don't smile at anyone--WE DON'T LIKE YOU."

Miss Barrow received one communication:

"Employee:

"Why don't you secure employment among your people? No one here is mad at you. We realize that you need a job. But sister (meaning a nice girl) you are in a a place now you have to live with us, not with Yankees.' 10-21-45

The dismissed young lady is a student at Reid's Business College and her mother, Mrs. Odessa Barrow, an expert cook now employed in one of Atlanta's most fashionable hostelries.

Railroads Hire Children Rather Than Negro Men

By HARRY McALPIN

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA—While the safety of the traveling public and the safety of 16 and 17-year old boys is endangered by their employment on railroads as firemen, trainmen and yardmen, the Stacy Committee continues to sleep in the matter of employment of Negroes which the railroads have refused to do.

The Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor is attempting to direct the employment of young boys, 16 and 17, into jobs where these youths are least likely to get hurt of to cause injury to others working on the jobs with them or traveling.

According to an announcement last week, the Bureau is working with the Association of American Railroads, the railroad brotherhoods and other unions, and Government agencies, concerned with transportation. They are drawing up advisory standards for employment of young workers in the railroad industry.

"With the shortage of labor what and were railroading "as glamor" glamorous as it is to the average American boy" the Bureau says, "some direction is needed to see that that youngsters are not placed in jobs where they are likely to get hurt, or to cause accidents that might tie up transportation."

The Stacy Committee was appointed by the President over a year ago to adjust the impasse which developed when the railroads refused to abide by the directives of the FEPC ordering them to cease their discriminatory practices against Negroes.

In a recent letter to Atty. Charles Houston, attorney for two organizations of Negro railroad employees, the Stacy Committee indicated it did not intend to take any action on the case, even though the Supreme Court had outlawed the Southeast Carriers Agreement on which it had based its past inactivity.

Jimcrow Endangers Texas Labor Unions

HOUSTON, Tex.

by David Carpenter

THREE recent incidents in Texas bring into sharp focus one of the most serious questions facing the trade union movement in the South today—that of the fight against racial discrimination. These incidents were: (1) the strike of members of the Oil Workers International Union, CIO, at the Shell Oil refinery near Houston, against the upgrading of two Mexican American workers; (2) the use of Negro-baiting by an official of the state AFL as an argument to defeat an anti-labor bill in the state legislature, and (3) the introduction of a bill in the same legislature at the request of an official of the brotherhood of Rrailroad Trainmen to strengthen the Jimcrow laws of Texas.

The strike of the CIO oil workers resulted from the order of the Fair Employment Practices Committee to the Shell Oil Co. to upgrade a number of Mexican American and Negro workers at the Deer Park refinery. Under pressure of reactionary racial prejudice, the regional office of the FEPC withdrew that portion of its order dealing with the upgrading of a number of Negro workers, but remained firm on the upgrading of two Mexican American workers.

Incited by outside racial agitation and the company's attitude on the federal government's "interference with its right" to hire and fire, a number of members of the CIO Oil Workers local which has a contract with Shell, struck for two days. Since then they have returned to work, but are requesting a strike ballot under the Smith-Connally Act in protest against the FEPC order.

The local union and international officers are attempting to evade responsibility by declaring that the men are not acting through the union. **But it must be noted that the strikers meet in the union hall. And the union has done nothing to discipline these violators of CIO policy.**

This action of CIO members in Texas does not spring full-blown out of nothing. In Texas, for example, there are Jimcrow locals in the United Steelworkers and the Oil Workers International Union. How can the CIO in the South fight against "segregation" agitation, when a number of its affiliates practice segregation themselves?

In only one instance, to my knowledge, have those CIO locals which admit Negroes into membership fought for upgrading and promotion for their members of that race.

The CIO Oil Workers Union at its 1943 convention, passed a resolution to abolish Jimcrow locals in the organization. But later it was brought to the floor again and defeated, with only a minority of the delegates participating in the voting.

Negro-baiting by the AFL official occurred during the hearing on the Christian American-sponsored open-shop bill. Harry Acreman, state secretary of the AFL, in arguing against the bill, declared its passage would make it necessary for white women to work side by side with Negro men.

The bill which was introduced by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen official provided for strong criminal penalties against conductors and trainmen who did not enforce Jimcrow laws in railroad coaches.

The coming of industry to the South in the 20th century—and, what is even more important, the organization and the growth of the CIO, in the last period of industrialization of the region, helped to change this to some extent. The AFL, forced to compete for membership with the CIO, has begun to take Negroes into many of its unions. However, its policy still is to grant only second-class union citizenship to the Negro members.

The CIO has done a magnificent job in the South, bringing the trade union movement to the new industry which has arisen and, thereby, changing the whole political and economic complexion of the region. But there have been three major weaknesses in its work.

The first of these is the tendency on the part of its organizers to fall into the trap set by the "white supremacists," which has led them in many instances to cater to racial prejudice in organizing.

Secondly, has been the failure to carry through any kind of educational program among the white members of the unions to create unity between white and Negro workers.

Thirdly, has been the failure of the CIO in any southern state to carry on a real fight for the special economic demands of the Negro workers.

Unless these dangerous weaknesses are corrected, we can expect a serious period for the working class in the South, a period which holds menace for the entire labor movement and is a threat to the forward-moving democratic trend in the southern states.

45c-1945

General

Says Race Bias Robs Railroads Of Manpower

Randolph Reports Thousands of Trained Negroes Available

3-14-45
PM's Bureau

WASHINGTON, Mar. 14.—There wouldn't be a manpower shortage if industry and labor unions abandoned discrimination and hired qualified Negroes, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, told a Senate subcommittee on education and labor.

While the Senate group is hearing evidence in favor of a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission — with enforcement powers—both Houses of Congress are snarled in a fight about conscription of manpower under a work or fight bill.

Randolph said that the present shortage of skilled white railroad labor is causing delay in the transportation of troops and war materials, damage to rolling stock and accidents to young and inexperienced workers. 3-14-45

At the same time, he charged, "evasions, chicanery and intimidation have been and are today being used against Negroes . . . by unions and management." He referred to discriminatory membership in the railroad brotherhoods (AFL). The campaign has been so successful, he testified, that between 1930 and 1940 the percentage of Negro firemen on Southern railroads dropped from 41 to 29 per cent. 3-14-45

Randolph cited figures on several individual railroads to show that they need at least 15,000 additional workers, while thousands of qualified Negro firemen, switchmen, brakemen, machinists, boilermakers and electricians are looking for work. The railroads refuse to hire them because they are not union men and the unions turn them down because they do not have union cards—a peculiar situation to say the least, said Randolph.

Randolph pointed out that race prejudice and racial discrimination are two different things: prejudice is an emotion, discrimination is a practice. 3-14-45

He added that "there cannot be full employment unless there is fair employment. The question of increased racial tensions is not an imaginary but a real danger."

Henry Epstein, former Solicitor General of New York State and now head of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, told the Committee that Senate bill 101—the bill which carries enforcement power—"embodies the greatest weapon for implementing our political democracy that has been placed before the Congress of the United States."

Irving Richter read a statement of Goerge W. Addes, Secretary-Treasurer of the United Automobile Workers of America (CIO) which put the full force of 1,500,000 UAW members behind the permanent FEPC bill. He said his union, which has already taken action against discrimination, would welcome it. 3-14-45

Others who testified in favor of a bill which provided penalties for violation included Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare; Alonzo Pereles, chairman of the Committee of 100, San Antonio, Tex.; Charles Zimmerman, secretary, International Garment Workers.

Racial Bars Add to Railroad Crisis

St. Louis Mo.

By HARRY McALPIN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — (NNPA) —The nation's railroads are in the tightest spot since the war began in trying to meet the tremendous demands of the Army for transporting men and materials across the country for shortening the Pacific War. 7-28-45

The most critical need of the railroads is manpower—engineers, hostlers, conductors, switch foremen, yardmen, firemen, brakemen, signal and maintenance men, switchmen, dispatchers, yardmasters, blacksmiths, boilermakers, carmen, car inspectors, electricians, machinists, molders, sheet metal workers, telegram operators, towermen, and signalmen.

Bottleneck Is Kept

Despite this bottleneck to full performance of its service, the railroads and the railroad brotherhoods are clinging tenaciously to policies and practices of discrimination based on race. Colored workers are excluded from almost every one of the 22 critical occupations in which 17 Western railroads have claimed they need 60,000 workers immediately.

The government of the United States is collaborating with the railroads at every turn to keep the status quo. Already the Army has announced it will release 4,000 men from the Army who have railroad experience. The War Manpower Commission last week announced it has accorded Priority 1 to these 17 Western railroads for recruiting railroad workers between regions.

Local manpower offices have been authorized to refer qualified workers in these 22 occupations to these roads without a certificate of availability being required in many instances.

Colored Workers Forgotten

No one has mentioned the fact that thousands of colored railroad workers are being denied the opportunity of helping out in this critical situation, or that the FEPC-Railroad discrimination case is still tied up at the White House, where it has been for almost three years.

BUSINESS WEEK
(NEW YORK CITY)
JUL 21 1945

RISK DISCRIMINATION?

The current trend towards state race discrimination laws is reported to have made some automobile insurance companies a bit jittery over the possibility that charges of discrimination will be leveled against them by Negroes.

Normally only some 20% of Negroes' applications for car coverage are approved. Fire companies, however, aren't so disturbed. They have a better "out" as property owned by Negroes is often a poor fire risk.

ODT Crisis Laid to Jimcrow Policy

Daily Worker

Refusal to employ Negroes, despite the urgent demand of the War Manpower Commission that additional railroad workers be taken on, is declared by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to be chiefly responsible for the present transportation crisis.

The NAACP declares in a wire to President Harry S. Truman that the critical situation in the movement of troops from the European and Pacific areas is a direct result of the Stacey Committee's refusal to make recommendations, as ordered after its creation in January, 1944, following a report by the Fair Employment Practice Committee on discriminatory practices of 14 railroads and seven unions.

The wire called attention to the fact that the Office of Defense Transportation recently suggested furloughs to 10,000 members of the armed forces to lighten the severity of strain on the transportation system. The NAACP wire said:

THOUSANDS AVAILABLE

"We wish to call your attention to the fact that there are thousands of qualified Negro railworkers and others who could be trained and used in a short period for service except for the continuation of discriminatory hiring and upgrading practices by the railroad industry and railroad labor unions, such discrimination being in direct violation of the decision of the United States Supreme Court, December 18, 1944 in **Tunstall vs. Brotherhood of Locomotive Firement and Enginemen et al.**" 7-30-45

The NAACP cited "rampant jimcrow practices" despite the imperative WMC appeal for 80,000 essential workers in June, 1943, and the subsequent findings of FEPC which led to the appointment of the Stacey Committee.

"On December 27, 1943," the NAACP declared, "pursuant to Executive Order 8802 as amended by 9346, FEPC certified to the President of the United States 14 railroads and seven rail unions which it had found discriminated against Negro workers solely on account of race and color. Thereupon the President created the special committee on railroad employment, popularly known as the Stacey Committee, to inquire into the matter and to make recommendations to him.

"Since the Stacey Committee was created sometime in January, 1944, it has wholly failed to take any action or make any recommendations to remove or alleviate discrimination against Negro railroad employes and applicants. We, therefore, call on you as President of the United States to abolish the Stacey Committee forthwith and to order that the findings and recommendations of the FEPC in regard to railroad hiring practices be put into immediate effect."

Failure to hire Negroes is the major cause of railroad crisis

Los Angeles Tribune 8-6-45

NEW YORK — Chiefly responsible for the present transportation crisis is the railroads' failure to employ Negroes in the face of an urgent demand from the War Manpower Commission for workers, NAACP charged recently in a letter to President Truman, demanding dismissal of the Stacey committee.

8-6-45

The critical situation in the movement of troops from the Pacific and Europe is a direct result of the committee's refusal to make recommendations as directed after its creation in January, 1944, following an FEPC report on discriminatory practices of 14 railroads and 7 unions, NAACP said.

Noting that ODT recently suggested granting furloughs to 10,000 in the armed forces to alleviate the increasingly difficult transportation tangle, NAACP secretary Walter White called attention to the "thousands of qualified Negro railworkers and others who could be trained and used in a short period for service except for the continuation of discriminatory hiring and upgrading practices by the railroad industry and labor unions . . ."

The Stacey committee on railroad employment, created to investigate and report on discriminatory practices, has "wholly failed to take any action or make any recommendations to remove or alleviate discrimination against Negro railroad employees and applicants," White furthered declared.

A brief on this matter will be filed by NAACP before the Mead committee, formerly the Truman committee.

Jimcrow—A Warning to Labor

New York, N.Y. Daily Worker

THE Jimcrow pattern now being super-imposed on Army discharges and planless reconversion casts a warning shadow.

Negro troops denied combat service are held over-long in the Army because of that fact and chafe under the discrimination. Cutbacks since the war ended make mass unemployment a fact in Negro communities. The democratic gains made by the Negro people during the war are seriously threatened. And the Negro press correctly records a growing bitterness concerning this.

Bilbo and other reactionaries are already seeking to split the Negro people from labor on the basis of these developments.

8-22-45

The struggle against fascism during the past decade has seen the development of the Negro-labor coalition. The present election struggle in Detroit is an example of this fact and its importance both to labor and the Negro people. In the primaries, labor's candidate Richard Frankensteen beat the reactionary Mayor Jeffries 22,000 to 3,800 in the Negro community while he lost to Jeffries 61,000 to 65,200 in white neighborhoods.

New tasks confront labor in maintaining its coalition with the Negro people, tasks which if not fulfilled can bring hard days and more severe trials.

It is clear that the organized labor movement must act on the anti-democratic practices of the Army. This is a question of long duration and will be with us for some time to come. There must be a more vigorous fight for the passage of anti-discrimination legislation—and its enforcement—especially the FEPC bill.

8-22-45

On the question of cutbacks and Negro employment labor cannot dodge the task of Negroes retaining at least **some** of the jobs won during the war. We cannot let nature and seniority take its course. Nature, let us remember, has been strongly bent to capitalist desires.

Labor faces a test on the Negro question. Its immediate future hangs upon how the test is met.

Toward Freedom

Employers, Negro Layoffs And Union Seniority

by Doxey A. Wilkerson

THE Murray-Metro[illegible] plant in Brooklyn is said to have laid off about 1,200 workers week before last, nearly one-half of whom were Negroes. The company also taught a lesson which needs to be learned by those trade unionists who still refuse to see that reconversion layoffs of Negro workers present a **special** problem for which the labor movement must develop **special** solutions.

It has long been apparent that Negro workers with low seniority ratings were likely to bear the brunt of postwar layoffs. Having been the last hired, they would normally be the first fired. Indeed, it was demonstrated months ago (especially in the National Negro Congress pamphlet, **Negro Workers After the War**) that the Negro's newly-won right to work in many plants and in certain jobs would be wiped out if normal seniority practices determined the succession of reconversion layoffs. These anticipated developments are now in process, as at Murray-Metropolitan and hundreds of other plants throughout the country.

Many proposals have been advanced as things trade unions should do to prevent reconversion unemployment from falling heaviest on the shoulders of Negro workers, and that it rejects the union's proposal to keep prewar anti-Negro discrimination from operating to restore job Jimcrow in the postwar period? Maybe so. But perhaps these Murray-Metropolitan officials are "smarter" than many trade unionists who fail to appreciate (as UE Local 1225 seems to do) that there are great union-busting possibilities in firing most or all of their Negro workers.

* * *

NEGRO workers will resent being laid off in proportions far larger than those for white workers. They and their families in the community will begin to inquire whether the labor movement means very much to the Negro, after all. And in this situation the anti-union bosses, with a gesture of profound "innocence," will explain to Negro workers: we want to keep you on the job, but union seniority rules won't let us do it.

Why should the special problem of Negro layoffs be tackled by the unions and not left to the bosses? For the simple reasons (1) that many bosses **want** to fire their Negro workers for reasons of racial prejudice and to weaken the unions, and (2) that the unions have the deepest stakes in trying to prevent precisely such developments.

Let trade unionists beware when the bosses (such as Murray-Metropolitan) come forward as vigorous champions of "regular" seniority practices. They probably conceal an anti-union dagger up their sleeves.

to protect the Negro's new job rights which the struggles of our unions did so much to win. One of those proposals is to modify the application of the seniority principle to Negro layoffs (as has been agreed to in the case of veterans), thus to assure that **some** Negroes would continue to work in all the jobs where they now work.

* * *

MANY trade unions have opposed any such "tampering with seniority." They have contended that **any** modification of seniority practice would destroy the principle (even though almost every union now provides for some exceptions to strict seniority); and besides, that the problem of Negro layoffs **should be put on the shoulders of the bosses, not the unions.**

It is this last contention that Murray-Metropolitan seems effectively to have answered.

I am told that officials of UE Local 1225 approached Murray-Metropolitan with a plan for proportional layoffs for Negro workers, seeking thus to avoid grossly disproportionate firings of Negroes. But the company told the union: nothing doing; any such "tampering with seniority" would involve discrimination against white workers.

So the company is so eager to avoid discrimination—even against white workers—

45c-1945

Racial Bias Charged in Drive-Away Crisis

Detroit Free Press - Mich.

1-6-45

Qualified Negroes Allegedly Denied Jobs; Union Head Admits Action

BY DANIEL L. WELLS
Free Press Labor Writer

With military vehicles frequently standing idle for want of drivers and with a shortage of truck drivers to haul war-vital freight, dozens of allegedly qualified Negro truck drivers are refused jobs each week because of a ban by Local 299 of the Teamsters Union (AFL).

These were charges being investigated Friday by the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices. They came to light after Army Ordnance officers issued a public plea for Detroiters to serve the war effort by driving completed Army vehicles to points of embarkation.

1-6-45

THE CHARGES were admitted by James Hoffa, secretary-treasurer of Local 299, who said the union's members have voted against Negro drivers for over-the-road hauling, and added:

"I'm getting tired of having war agencies and newspapers trying to tell me how to run this union."

* * *

EDWARD M. SWANN, examiner in charge of the Detroit office of the Fair Employment Practices Committee, has been investigating charges of racial discrimination by Local 299 for more than six months. The Army's difficulties in obtaining drivers for driveaways of military vehicles came as no surprise to him.

Complaints from individual Negroes who have been refused jobs driving trucks on out-of-the-state runs have been made to his office frequently, he said. They involve a total of 20 companies who contract with Local 299 to furnish drivers for the jobs.

1-6-45

IN SOME CASES the Negro applicant for a job was told that the union "won't allow us to hire Negro drivers." More frequently, however, an excuse was made, it was said.

Hoffa explained that there are Negro members of Local 299 who work as loaders, or who work for all-Negro companies.

"There is no secret about our position," said Hoffa. "This union is clean as a whistle. The members have voted that Negroes can't be drivers. . . . The pay differential is 20 cents an hour."

* * *

HOFFA LAST October conferred with Washington officials of the

General

The resolution putting the UFA on record as opposing "any religious or racial discrimination in the department in any form" followed investigation of charges alleging specific acts of discrimination on the part of certain officers in charge of fire houses.

1-20-45

Protests were lodged originally with the fire commissioner by the Vulcan Society (group of colored firemen) through their representative, Edward A. Dudley, NAACP assistant special counsel, at a meeting last October 20, and report of findings of an investigation was made December 21.

'Blue Discharge' Is Job Bar to Negroes

By ABNER W. BERRY

Another barrier to jobs for Negro vets over and above those which already exist on the home front is seen in the "blue discharge." The blue discharge denotes "other than honorable" discharge from the U. S. Army. The holder of such a discharge is considered a bad actor and is disconnected from the Army for the good of the services.

Louis Colman, secretary of the International Labor Defense, says that a number of these discharges have been brought to his attention. "Holders of such discharges have poor prospects of employment," Mr. Colman said, "and especially if the holder is a Negro."

With the best references and preparation it is not easy for Negroes to land jobs, but when the blue discharge is added then it is almost impossible, except in the lowest brackets, Mr. Colman pointed out.

JIMCROW RESENTED

If this type of discharge to Negroes is on the increase it is understandable. The writer has seen how it works. Every Negro in the Army resents the Jimcrow status and there is constant griping against it. In some cases we have seen a Negro soldier resent a sharp order from a white officer and refuse to carry out the order. He was asked why by the officer and replied: "I'm tired of taking orders from white folks! That's all I've done all my life." Eventually he was given a blue discharge.

A soldier who volunteered to fight with an infantry division following the Battle of the Bulge last winter writes that with the fighting over the Negro members of the division are being pushed aside. He described how one Negro soldier was sent to a Holland rest camp and refused entrance "because we haven't got a colored camp established yet."

Another soldier writes to ask why the Negroes are being removed from the divisions with which they fought while the white soldiers are sent home. A number of the Negro soldiers made vigorous protest. And as is the case always some of the protests did not conform to Army regulations. Therefore a number of them are in guardhouses and stockades. Of course this isn't good for the Army. It harms morale. But the source of the bad actions in each case is the Jimcrow system which the Army insists upon enforcing and which is being strengthened since the end of the war in Europe. This is the main source of the blue discharges.

ILD PLAN

In order to aid soldiers holding such discharges to have them changed to **honorable** the International Labor Defense is setting up a special bureau. In this Congressman Vito Marcantonio will assist with the legal work. Already many soldiers have been aided in their appeals by Congressman Marcantonio.

Mr. Colman expressed alarm at the trend of anti-Negro actions in the Army, and thinks the proposed bureau will help combat them.

NYC Orders End of Fire Dept. Bias

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK—Passage of a resolution by the United Firemen's Association of Greater New York, outlawing discrimination, and its conformance to Section 222, Firemen's Rules and Regulations, was called to the attention of all deputy fire chiefs recently by Fire Commissioner Patrick Walsh.

Some U. S. Agencies Bar Negroes, Bowles Claims

Louisville, Ky.

Washington, Dec. 28 (AP)—O.P.A. Administrator Chester Bowles has protested to the White House and the Civil Service Commission that "certain officers in some federal agencies have shown marked resistance to employment of Negroes."

He wrote David K. Niles, administrative assistant to President Truman, on December 7 and Arthur S. Fleming, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, on December 4. The O.P.A. released the letters today after they had been published in some newspapers.

12-29-45

The White House made public said, Negroes released by the on December 10 a letter from O.P.A. met discrimination when Truman to department heads directing them to "make careful they applied for new jobs.

Bowles cited these details:

Cites Specific Cases.

Bowles wrote Fleming of "a few specific instances" where, he

"Our officer in charge of out-

Across The Desk

By LUDLOW W. WERNER

LABOR IN THE SOUTH made significant news last week on two counts, through reports and decisions of those familiar alphabetical agencies, the NLRB and WLB. On the first count, it was an NLRB trial examiner who delivered a scorching report against the Tobacco Workers International Union, AFL, for its Jim Crow local. On the second count, it was an WLB decision which observers believe may have serious repercussions on the entire Southern economy.

The NLRB examiner not only recommended that the AFL union abolish its Jim Crow local but urged that unless this was done within fifteen days the board should revoke its certification as the collective bargaining unit and order a new election.

In ordering the Richmond, Va., union to "practice that democracy which is the most precious asset of this Nation," the NLRB examiner found that the AFL union violated the Board's policy, President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9346, and the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution by setting up a separate unit of the union for Negro employes of the tobacco factory. Nor did the fact that the segregation was at the instance of and on the recommendations of a Negro international vice-president influence the examiner's report.

Pointing out the weakness that such discrimination makes of the employees strength, the examiner said that "no guarantee exists that the two organizations would act in concert on any matter confronting them. A strike, normally the strongest weapon at the command of a union, might become largely ineffective if it were applicable only to a portion of the workers in the unit. The white as well as the Negro workers become victims of the discrimination through the loss of the strength which unity of action alone can afford."

In pointing out the basic weakness of separation of the races in unions, the NLRB examiner's report should find a ready response on the part of labor leaders sincerely interested in doing a job of labor and not for themselves.

Of still greater significance, I believe, was the War Labor Board's directives in the textile industry, dealing not only with the twenty-three Southern mills but with the twenty-five New England and six New York and Pennsylvania firms.

The board's majority decision, subject to approval of Economic Stabilizer Fred M. Vinson, raised the minimum for 50,000 cotton and rayon textile workers from 50 to 55 cents an hour and granted a five-cent an hour general increase to preserve job differentials.

The four industry members of the board dissented vigorously from the majority decision declaring that it "may have serious repercussions on the entire Southern economy." They objected seriously on the grounds that the board in imposing the new 55-cent minimum "even of the Southern textile industry . . . imposed on the companies a burden which may well make it very difficult for them to operate in competition with the vast majority of the rest of Southern industry. And if it be said that the condition will soon ameliorate itself because the rest of the industry in the South will necessarily fall in line, the board is imposing on that industry an added wage bill—estimated at about $71,600,000 a year—which may have serious repercussions on the entire Southern economy."

There is this much to be said of the WLB decision. It recognizes that one of the basic ills of this country has been the low economic level obtaining in the South because of differentials, lowered standards of livings and poorer education largely dictated by Southern owners or agents of Northern owners of factories and plants. The cheap labor market in the South has been the curse of the South.

Behind that cheap labor market has been the Northern industrialist who has profited greatly by being able to produce more cheaply finished products in the South and in making the South an economic poorhouse has also made the inhabitants thereof a poorer people. Half of the trouble in the South, it is believed, would be cleared up—the racial tensions chiefly—if the people of the South lived under first-rate conditions and at the same standard of living as in the North.

That is why the industry members have dissented so vigorously from the WLB directives. They see the whole structure falling down around their ears. They see people working at decent wages, able to live decently, able to send their children to better schools for higher education, able to pay more taxes and in turn receive more of the benefits of public improvements (better schools) predicated on tax receipts. They see no longer an impoverished South. They see a South suddenly emerging from the economic poorhouse. And they can't take it.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
STAR-JOURNAL
Circ. D. 247,788

Concerned About Jobs For Negroes

To the Editor: As industrial secretary of the Minneapolis Urban league I am somewhat concerned about the postwar trends of employment for the Negro in this community.

I have since V-J day amassed quite a comprehensive list of firms that have refused to hire Negroes even after referral from the United States employment service. I believe this situation should be made public and the potential consequences of it also noted.

Minneapolis. —William Seabron.

Demand Congressional Probe Of Civil Service

New York Age

The initial conference on Harlem's Post-War Problems held Sunday afternoon, January 21, at the Carver Ballroom, resulted in a demand for Congressional investigation of the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

Congressman Adam Powell was requested to spearhead this action by introducing the adopted resolution which read as follows:

"Be it resolved that immediate action should be taken by the Congress to investigate the functions operations, and procedures of the United States Cicil Service Commission, with a view to insuring that the rights of minority groups of all kinds shall be properly safeguarded against arbitrary or discriminatory action in employment, promotion, and dismissal in the service of the government."

FEDERAL NEGRO BANS CHARGED BY BOWLES

New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 (AP)—Chester Bowles, OPA Administrator, has protested to the White House and the Civil Service Commission that officers in some Federal agencies had shown "marked resistance to employment of Negroes."

He wrote David K. Niles, administrative assistant to President Truman, on Dec. 7 and Arthur S. Fleming, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, on Dec. 4. The OPA released the letters today after they had been published in some newspapers.

President Truman, in a letter made public Dec. 20, directed department chiefs to "make careful analysis of your personnel policies, procedures and practices in order that you can assure me" that no discrimination is practiced.